

Shevardnadze due in Mideast

MOSCOW (AP) — Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard A. Shevardnadze will begin a five-state tour of the Middle East this week aimed at achieving a "tangible breakthrough" in settling the Arab-Israeli conflict, an official said. Vadim Perfilov, a Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman, told a government news briefing that Shevardnadze will visit Syria on Feb. 17-19; Jordan Feb. 19; Egypt Feb. 20-22; Iraq Feb. 23-25 and Iran Feb. 25-27. Shevardnadze's visit is evidence of an increasing Soviet role in the Middle East. The last time a Soviet foreign minister visited Egypt was in 1975, when Andrei A. Gromyko held the post. According to Perfilov, Shevardnadze's trip "will take place in the framework of the Soviet Union's consistent efforts to achieve a comprehensive and just settlement in the Middle East, taking into account the interests of all people involved. We seek to attain a tangible breakthrough in settling this old conflict." In response to a reporter's question, Perfilov said he did not know whether Shevardnadze would be meeting during his trip with Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens, or with PLO leader Yasser Arafat.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية مستقلة تصدر بالإنجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية "الراية"

Israeli group claims arson

TEL AVIV (AP) — An underground group named after ancient Jewish assassins claimed responsibility for its first arson attack and said it would "kill all those who will contact the PLO," a newspaper reported Sunday. The attack was Saturday at the Tel Aviv apartment of pollster Mitz Tamah, whose survey last week showed that over half of the Israelis support talks with the PLO. The door of Tamah's apartment was damaged but nobody was injured, police said. The group said the attack was in retaliation for "false reports about the readiness of Israeli public to talk with the PLO... we will reach everybody. We will not hesitate to kill all those who would contact the PLO." An unidentified caller claimed responsibility in a series of phone calls to the mass-circulation Israeli daily Yediot Ahronot. The caller spoke for a previously unknown group calling itself "Sons of Light-the Sicarii Faction" after Jewish assassins of the 1st century A.D. who carried daggers — sic in Latin — in murder pro-Roman collaborators. A public opinion poll conducted by Tamah's Dahaf Institute and published in Yediot Ahronot showed that 53 per cent of the Israelis questioned supported peace talks with the PLO.

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King to meet world leaders in Tokyo to discuss Middle East

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein has said that he would hold talks on the Middle East problem in Tokyo with the leaders of friendly countries later this month when he will attend the funeral of the late Emperor Hirohito of Japan.

In an interview with Japanese television and a group of Japanese journalists, the King said he was optimistic about new U.S. President George Bush and his approach to the Middle East. The King said his talks with Bush in Tokyo would deal with the Arab-Israeli conflict in light of the ongoing dialogue between the U.S. and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

The King said the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories was the natural outcome of Israel's occupation of Arab lands and called for international efforts to end the occupation so that a just and lasting settlement could be found for the Middle East conflict and the Palestinian problem in all its aspects.

The King said he was optimistic over the current favourable atmosphere in superpower relations and world politics which helped solve the conflicts in Kampuchea, Namibia and Afghanistan, ended the Gulf war and halted the global nuclear arms race. Such a favourable atmosphere, he said, will no doubt have

its positive impact on efforts to resolve the Middle East problem. The King said he had held extensive talks with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev on Moscow's role in Middle East peace efforts and that the issue would be discussed with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, who is due to arrive in Amman Feb. 19.

"I believe their attitude towards the problem is very positive and constructive and we will be able to continue... in the visit of the foreign minister to brief him on what has happened so far and to exchange views," the King said.

The King said attention should now be focused on coordinating superpower endeavours, together with efforts exerted by United Nations Security Council members and the European Community, towards convening an international peace conference on the Middle East. "I am optimistic... that sometime soon there will be a dialogue among the five permanent U.N. Security Council members as was the case in Iran and Iraq," he said, referring to the

Security Council's role in ending the Gulf war.

The King said Israeli leaders should change their opposition to involving the PLO in peace talks. On Jordanian-Palestinian relations, the King said: "We believe that relations between Jordan and Palestine will be quite special and they are. However, we believe that to go into details at this time is premature."

The King said he expected that Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak would be invited to the next Arab summit meeting. "The Arab summit has to be held and Egypt invited to attend," he said. "We are pushing for it to take place as soon as possible."

He said the summit should tackle the Palestinian problem, the Lebanese civil war and efforts to find permanent peace between Iran and Iraq.

The King said the planned economic alliance among Jordan, Egypt, Iraq and North Yemen "is not directed against any country" but is solely for increasing economic cooperation.

The King described Jordanian-Japanese relations as unique and based on mutual respect. He expressed great admiration and respect for the late emperor and his sublime humanitarian ideals. The King wished new Emperor Akihito success in leading his country towards further progress and prosperity.



His Majesty King Hussein Monday addresses officers of the Fifth Royal Armoured Division (Petra photo)

King outlines issues, efforts to officers

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein, the Supreme Commander of the Jordanian Armed Forces, Monday visited the command of the Fifth Royal Armoured Division. After hearing a briefing on the division's duties and activities, the King met with the division officers and expressed absolute confidence in the Armed Forces and admiration in their standards.

The King reviewed a number of issues and developments which concern the region including the stages the Palestine cause has gone through.

The King also referred to the efforts Jordan is exerting on all levels in support of the Palestine cause and said the next few days would witness the birth of a propitious Arab gathering, the nucleus of a greater Arab gathering, which includes Jordan, Iraq, Egypt, and North Yemen.

The King was accompanied by Royal Court Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker and Chief of Staff General Fathi Abu Taleh.

Premiers meet today for ACC foundation

By P.V. Vivekanand

AMMAN — The Prime Ministers of Egypt, North Yemen, Iraq and Jordan met in Amman Tuesday to lay the foundations for a sub-regional alliance focusing on economic integration and using complementary resources available among the four countries as the first step towards realistic Arab economic integration.

The proposed Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) will initially group the four countries but its membership will be open to all Arab states which are not members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) or the planned Arab Maghreb Union; in essence it means Syria, Lebanon, Sudan, Somalia, Djibouti and South Yemen.

The four leaders meeting today — Zaid Rifal of Jordan, Atef Sedki of Egypt, Taha Yassin Ramadan of Iraq and Abdul Aziz Abdul Ghani of North Yemen — will finalise a framework for cooperation and coordination among the four countries. The four heads of state — His Majesty King Hussein, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and North Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh — will hold a mini-summit in Baghdad Saturday to formally announce the birth of the ACC.

Jordanian leaders as well as others, including President Saleh, have made it clear that the ACC will not be a political alliance, whose framework is expected to boost an expansion of bilateral economic cooperation agreements among the four member states. Jordan's cooperation with the other three are guided by joint higher committees co-chaired by the respective prime ministers.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasbi summed up the nature of the ACC in an interview with Reuters last week, by saying the council would be a meeting point, not an axis. "It's too early to talk about a common market," Qasbi was quoted as saying by Reuters. "We don't want to promote something unattainable, but we've seen the benefits from what we have done bilaterally and we are

trying to perfect already tangible results."

According to economic analysts, the proposed features of the alliance, which will represent the roughly 80 million people of the four countries, include removal of trade, travel and other barriers among the four countries and directly addressing complementarities in terms of resources, needs and other imperatives, and formulating exchange of expertise and experience in various fields in the member states.

The benefits of such exchanges and arrangements were highlighted by analysts, who observed that streamlining and organising proper utilisation of the complementary nature of resources of the four countries will be highly beneficial to all concerned. "The Arab World was always in acute need of a framework to define what is available and where in the Arab states," said an Arab analyst. "There are numerous instances when an Arab state opted for a foreign source for its requirements only

because there was no adequate data and information available to show that another Arab state could have met the former's needs. This applies to manpower, national products and others."

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said Monday His Majesty the King first proposed the creation of the council and the leaders of the other three countries responded positively to the proposal.

According to Jordanian economic experts and analysts interviewed by Petra, the ACC framework will in no way contradict the principles of Arab economic integration. On the contrary, said Royal Scientific Society President Jawad Al Anani, the ACC will complement and advance efforts for Arab economic integration.

"The idea is related to the call for pan-Arab unity," Anani was quoted as saying by Petra. "It was enhanced at the 1987 Amman Arab summit when Arab leaders reached agreement and consensus on future action."

The concept that aspired pan-Arab unity, Anani said, does not imply that the Arabs cannot follow a course in stages towards that goal. "In fact, previous efforts to arrive at all-out unity at once without proper and adequate preparations and planning step-by-step approach led to several setbacks," he said.

Comparing the ACC with the GCC and the planned Maghreb union of Algeria, Morocco, Mauritania, Libya and Tunisia, Anani said the new four-member entity was not only a step towards Arab unity but also a boost to the four member states in their efforts to cope with the economic challenges of today.

Similar views were echoed by Jordanian Federation of Chambers of Commerce President Mohammad Asfour, Industrial Estates Corporation President Fayez Suheimat and others. Hassan Ibrahim, secretary-general of the Council for Arab Economic Unity, also welcomed the proposed formation of the ACC in statements carried by Petra (see page 3).

1 killed, 5 injured amid fears of new Jewish terror group

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — A Palestinian was killed and two other people were wounded Monday in an explosion caused by a "suspicious object" in the occupied West Bank, the Israeli army said.

Also Monday, two Palestinian teenagers were shot by Israeli troops during stone-throwing protests in the occupied Gaza Strip, a military spokesman said.

In occupied Jerusalem, two members of parliament said recent attacks by Jewish settlers on Palestinians in the West Bank were the work of a "very efficient and well armed" settler militia. The army clamped a curfew on Qabatiya village after an unidentified man blew himself up "playing with a suspicious object," the military spokesman said. Two other villagers were hurt, the spokesman said.

A preliminary report indicates they found a suspicious object, played with it and it exploded," a military statement said. An Arab reporter in the West Bank said a four-year-old girl and

her 10-year-old brother were seriously hurt while herding sheep near their home in Tayasir village. The children's parents said they heard an explosion, but did not know what caused it.

It was not immediately clear whether the army and the Arab reporter were describing the same incident. Tayasir and Qabariya are 16 kilometres away from each other.

At least six children have been reported wounded in similar circumstances in the past.

Last month, officials said some of the earlier injuries were caused by flames emitted by fighter jets in order to deflect heat-seeking missiles.

A very few of the flames do not explode in the air but fall to earth, he said.

In Gaza's Rafah refugee camp, two 14-year-old teenagers were shot in the head by troops and transferred to Israeli hospitals in critical condition, a military spokeswoman said.

Parliamentarians Yossi Sarid and Dedi Zucker appealed to the Israeli government Sunday to dis-

mantle what they said was a 100-member militia formed by settlers to counter protests in the 14-month-long Palestinian uprising.

The charge revived fears of another Jewish settler terrorist underground jailed for attacking Palestinians in the West Bank in the early 1980s.

The two parliamentarians said the militia was commanded by some of the best-known leaders of the 70,000 Jewish settlers in the West Bank.

Tensions between settlers and Palestinians have risen since a Jewish resident of the Alfei Measbe settlement was burned to death Wednesday in what police believe was a Palestinian petrol-bomb attack.

Settlers, frequent targets of Palestinian attacks, have sought to counter the uprising with stooges and raids on Arab villages. They have demanded tougher army action or the right to police areas themselves.

Settlers met the mayor of the

EC, Syria say Israeli withdrawal essential condition for peace



Farouq Sharara

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Syria and European Community (EC) envoys joined Monday in calling for an Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories as an essential condition for peace, a Syrian minister said.

This included withdrawal from Syria's Golan Heights, Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharara said.

"We agreed that a solution (to the Arab-Israeli conflict) must lead to a total Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories," Sharara said.

He was speaking at a news conference after talks between President Hafez Al Assad and foreign ministers Francisco Fernandez Ordonez of Spain, Roland Dumas of France and Karolos Papoulias of Greece.

Syria was the third Arab state visited by the ministers with a mandate to sound out views on how to work for peace in the region. They report to the EC Council of Ministers Tuesday.

"Our conclusion is that there is a room for hope, some possibility to push forward the process of peace," Fernandez Ordonez said

when asked the outcome of the tour.

They also met PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat in Madrid and two of the ministers visited Israel.

Asked if Syria would take part in an international peace conference if Israel did not withdraw from the Golan Heights, Sharara told reporters:

"It is impossible to think of peace in the region without the total Israeli withdrawal from the Golan and the rest of the occupied Arab territories."

He said that before an international conference Israel should announce it was ready to withdraw from all occupied territories, including the Golan.

Sharara said the community ministers and Syria agreed to back an international peace conference and recognise the Palestinian people's right of self-determination.

Dumas told Reuters that the EC had long called for an Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab territories and he hoped 1989 would witness progress towards ending the problem.

"This is the first time the com-



Francisco Fernandez Ordonez

munity comes to the Middle East with this weight to have an active role in the peace process and to help efforts to convene an international conference," he said.

Dumas said the political crisis in Lebanon and plight of foreign hostages there were discussed with Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam. Syria has repeatedly pledged to work for the release of all the hostages.

Afghans get food

KABUL (R) — Hundreds of hungry families in Kabul received food supplies from United Nations aid workers Monday as Soviet forces prepared their final departure from Afghanistan after nine years of bloody but indecisive war.

Ecboing charges from the Afghan government, the Soviet media accused Pakistani forces of massing on the border and suggested thousands of Pakistani troops dressed as Afghans had entered the country to help rebels besiege the city of Jalalabad.

The Soviet withdrawal continued with the departure of 15 bemedalled Soviet paratroopers aboard an Antonov-12 transport plane from Kabul airport. About 450 men left Sunday.

A Soviet lieutenant-colonel, Pyotr Sardarchuk, said he and a small group of other Soviet soldiers would stay behind to supervise an airlift of flour to Kabul.

But he said all the men would leave before Wednesday, the deadline for all Soviet troops to withdraw from Afghanistan under U.N.-sponsored accords signed in Geneva last April.

Staffan de Mistura of the U.N. Afghan Aid Coordination Office told reporters that 400 Afghan families received rations and more would be handed out Tuesday and Wednesday.

Despite a Soviet airlift and government convoys, food queues have lengthened and prices have risen.

The Soviet media's accusations against Pakistan paralleled charges made Sunday by Afghan President Najibullah, who said the rebels were colluding in a Pakistani plot to invade and annex Afghanistan.

Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto rejected the charges.

The official Soviet news agency TASS charged that Pakistan had sent 1,600 soldiers, 200 tribal militiamen and long-range artillery to the town of Landi Kotal bordering Afghanistan.

It alleged that a battalion of Pakistani paratroopers, another 320 soldiers and 1,600 tribal militiamen were in the Pakistani towns of Kuneh Gandi, Ali Masjed and Shalman and were actively helping rebels in operations against the Afghan army.

LAST-MINUTE NEWS

Sheikh Shakhboub laid to rest

AL 'AIN (R) — The former ruler of Abu Dhabi, Sheikh Shakhboub Ibn Sultan Al Nahayan, was buried Monday in Al 'Ain. The UAE news agency WAM said his brother, UAE President Sheikh Zayed Ibn Sultan Al Nahayan, led prayers at the funeral.

Abdul Meguid visits Riyadh

RIYADH (R) — Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid arrived in Saudi Arabia Monday for a two-day visit to reassert the strong ties between the two countries, the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) reported. SPA quoted him as saying his visit would reaffirm the strong and sound ties binding the two countries. Abdul Meguid was carrying a message to King Fahd from Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and will hold talks with Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal.

Heavy frost damages Israeli crops

TEL AVIV (R) — Snow and sub-zero temperatures caused severe damage to Israel's crops last week, the deputy director general of the Agriculture Ministry, I. Ben David, said Monday. He estimated the damage at \$13 million in lost investments. The figure did not loss of income to farmers from sales or damage to vineyards, groves and orchards. Agriculture Minister Avraham Katz-Oz told the cabinet Sunday that frost had caused about \$300 million in long-term damage to trees, reduced yields next season and destruction of greenhouses.

C. American summit opens

TESORO BEACH, El Salvador (AP) — President Jose Napoleon Duarte inaugurated a long-postponed Central American summit meeting Monday, saying the leaders were optimistic about bringing peace and progress to the turbulent region. After a brief opening statement, Duarte joined presidents Jose Azcona of Honduras, Daniel Ortega of Nicaragua, Oscar Arias of Costa Rica and Vinicio Cerezo of Guatemala in a closed door meeting.

PLO: No end to struggle without guarantees

TUNIS (Agencies) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has said that without guarantees of Palestinian rights it would never end its struggle against Israel for the sake of dialogue with the United States.

A statement reported Sunday by the Palestine news agency Wafa replied to U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, who said Saturday attacks on Israeli civilians or soldiers could make problems for Washington.

"We wish to make clear to the United States... we will only halt resistance and intifada after clarification of all the guarantees allowing our people to recover their legitimate rights, including a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital," the PLO said.

"It is not to the PLO that Baker should address his warnings but to Israel which daily practises terrorism in the occupied territories," the agency said.

Deng praises Bhutto's reconciliation policy

PEKING (R) — Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping Monday praised Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto for not taking revenge on her political foes, in an apparent attempt to erase memories of China's ties with her predecessor Zia Ul Haq.

Deng, a survivor of two political purges during China's cultural revolution (1966-76), met Bhutto in Shanghai and applauded her for promising a policy of reconciliation in Pakistan, the official New China News Agency reported.

"Various political parties in Pakistan and the Pakistan people are all our friends. I hope they get united to develop Pakistan instead of haggling over past resentment," the agency quoted Deng as saying.

Bhutto's father Zulfikar Ali Bhutto was largely responsible in the 1960s and 1970s for forging the close alliance between China

and Pakistan, before being ousted in 1977 by Zia and eventually executed.

Chinese leaders nevertheless maintained an "extremely friendly" relationship with Zia until his death in a plane crash last year, Peking-based diplomats said.

In his meeting with Bhutto Monday, Deng pointed out that her father had been a friend of Mao Tsetung and enjoyed a "special relationship" with late Chinese Premier Chou En-Lai, the agency reported.

"I personally have had contacts with your family for a long time," Deng said.

"All parties and successive governments of Pakistan adhere to having friendly relations with China. Sino-Pakistan friendship is eternal," the report quoted Deng as saying. It did not mention Zia by name.



Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto raises her glass of orange juice in a toast with Chinese Premier Li Peng at a banquet in Peking Sunday

Bhutto told Deng Monday that both countries needed stability and peace and that his pragmatic economic reforms had "brought changes to the whole world."

Deng, 84, told Bhutto: "I am very glad to meet the youngest woman prime minister in the world," the agency said.

Bhutto too has taken pains during her visit to emphasise her family's past links with China and

Sunday met Chou's widow Deng Yingchao.

President Yang Shangkun said during an earlier meeting with the Pakistani leader that her choice of China for her first official overseas trip since her election testified to the good relations between the two countries.

Bhutto, who arrived in China Saturday, left Shanghai Monday evening to return to Pakistan.

Uncertainty clouds key Afghan rebel meeting

ISLAMABAD (Agencies) — Afghan rebels Monday set Tuesday as the start of a key meeting they hope will accelerate progress to peace in their country, but success still hinged on agreement over deep disputes.

The official spokesman of the consultative council, fundamentalist Abdurrah Rasul Sayyaf, scheduled a procedural session for Monday night and a full start Tuesday morning.

He made his announcement through the Afghan News Agency (ANA), which is funded by fundamentalist groups.

Moderates said, however, it was still far from certain the council, or Shura, was ready to start.

One moderate group, the Afghan National Liberation Front (ANLF), has threatened to boycott the Shura unless a row over how many seats should be allotted to eight groups based in Iran was settled.

Three moderate groups in a Pakistan-based alliance are pitted against the four fundamentalist members in the row, the most important of several differences.

Sources in the two other moderate parties said they backed the ANLF stand.

An ANLF spokesman said af-

ter Sayyaf's announcement there had been no change in his party's position and it was still awaiting the outcome of marathon talks on the Iran-based seats.

Iranian Deputy Prime Minister Alireza Moayyeri arrived in Islamabad Sunday in a bid to save the Shura, which was called to approve an interim government in Afghanistan as the Soviet withdrawal from the country neared completion.

Moayyeri's talks with the Pakistan-based alliance went into the evening and there was no word of any progress.

If no resolution was reached and the moderates boycotted the Shura along with the Iran-based groups, any Shura that did go ahead would lack the credibility rebel Mujahedeen supporters in Pakistan and the West are seeking.

The political wrangling has disgusted at least one prominent guerrilla commander, Abdul Haq.

He accused the politicians in a

recent interview with Reuters of being more interested in fame and fortune than the future of their country.

Abdul Haq suggested the guerrilla commanders might take matters into their own hands if the politicians failed to unite. Soviet forces are due to have completed their withdrawal from Afghanistan by Wednesday after an unsuccessful nine-year war against the Mujahedeen.

Mujahedeen sources said guerrilla commanders who came for the Shura met at the conference site near the garrison town of Rawalpindi Monday afternoon. There was no word on what were being discussed.

The Shura, which had been previously delayed over the Iran-based representation issue, was scheduled to have started last Friday.

The continuing fight over the problem forced an indefinite postponement after a only brief and formal opening session.

Kabul renews offer

The Afghan government has meanwhile renewed its offer to negotiate directly with rebel commanders.

The Soviet Union Sunday handed over its last outpost, on



An Afghan fighter samples some meat in the border point settlement of Torkham that is under the control of rebels. A blockade by the rebels has worsened normal winter shortages of food.

driving up the price of wheat and cooking oil in Kabul. Relief efforts are hampered by fears of safety aired by airline crew.

the edge of Kabul airport, preparing to leave the Afghan government army alone to defend the capital against the rebels.

Soviet and Afghan soldiers cheered as the changeover was completed, and Afghans raised the red, black and green flag of their country.

The Soviet news agency TASS, reporting on an Afghan government statement circulated Sunday, said some rebel commanders

started talks with the government in the past several days.

"They said that the absence of Soviet troops in Afghanistan made it possible for them to take part in the process of a peaceful settlement and the termination of fratricide as soon as possible," TASS said.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Mohammad Nabi Amani said the government asked the rebels to submit their proposals for nation-

al reconciliation and guaranteed that the government would consider them.

In Kabul, mothers and red-cheeked children stood in snow Monday outside relief centre, hoping to get the few rations and blankets distributed by U.N. workers whose airlift was abruptly halted.

Small amounts of food were distributed in some of the poorest sections of Kabul.

Iranians demonstrate in Los Angeles, call for restoration of monarchy

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Thousands of Iranian immigrants marking the 10th anniversary of the revolution that ousted the Shah of Iran shouted "Death to Khomeini" and called for restoration of the Shah's peacock throne.

The group of about 12,000 expatriate Iranians also listened as the late monarch's son delivered an impassioned speech Sunday calling on his followers to bring him to power.

"This is the day to honour the memory of all our compatriots who lost their lives in war, in prisons and in the torture chambers of this bloodthirsty regime," said Prince Reza Pahlavi, who is considered by sympathisers of his later father to be the rightful successor to the throne and ruler of Iran.

The rally inside the Los Angeles sports arena near downtown contrasted with mass gatherings in Tehran, Iran, Saturday where up to four million people celebrated Khomeini's rule and chanted "Death to America."

The rally was staged in Los Angeles because the city has the largest Iranian population outside Iran, with an estimated 500,000 expatriates living here.



Reza Pahlavi

Iranian businessmen handed out free tickets to the rally that was attended by many families and children. Everyone entering the venue was frisked by police after passing through metal detectors.

Thousands in the crowd waved flags bearing the symbol of the Shah's regime, stomped their feet, clapped and chanted anti-Khomeini slogans.

Pahlavi, 28, took the stage to thunderous applause, holding his hands over his head in fists, blowing kisses and tossing roses into

the crowd.

He condemned the Khomeini regime, saying it has "spilled the blood of hundreds of thousands of Iranians," and "caused the wholesale destruction of the country."

He said all Iranians should come together and work to return the royal family to power.

"It is time for our intellectuals, our youth, our talented and experienced compatriots who have been forced into exile... to enter the stage of history, to lead and organise, to encourage cooperation while respecting diversity of tastes and ideology," he said.

"The war with Iraq had kept our collective attention focused on an external enemy. With the end of war, the bankruptcy of the regime is ever more evident," Pahlavi said.

Pahlavi conducted his entire 40-minute speech in his native language of Farsi. English translations of the address were provided to the news media.

Heide Salem said the enthusiastic reception for Pahlavi represented the unity among Iranians living outside their native country.

"The emotion you heard was one voice," she said, "one loud voice."

Bazargan party may contest elections

NICOSIA (R) — The Freedom Movement led by former Iranian Prime Minister Mehdi Bazargan says that it will contest presidential elections in August if the government relaxed political restrictions.

The movement is officially banned but the official Iranian news agency IRNA, received in Nicosia, Sunday carried a report of a news conference which it held in north Tehran.

"We will participate in the presidential election and any other elections providing a free climate exists," former Foreign Minister Ibrahim Yazdi, a ranking party member, was quoted as saying.

"If the people accept parties and group work we will move towards an acceptable multi-party system. This is our hope and effort... and we are hopeful of the future."



Mehdi Bazargan

The Freedom Movement is one of more than 30 parties or associations which have applied for official registration.

Yazdi, foreign minister under Bazargan in the first cabinet after

the 1979 revolution, urged the government to show goodwill by ending bans on opposition parties and newspapers.

He said the Freedom Movement accepted the authority of Iran's religious leadership as a principle of the constitution. "We are not against the system, (but) we oppose the actions of the government," he was quoted as saying.

"Provided (there is) a free press, freedom of gatherings and freedom of thought, we will not turn our backs... and we will actively take part in the elections."

Bazargan, whose government fell after eight months under a barrage of criticism for not implementing revolutionary reforms fast enough, said in an interview published in Tehran in January that the Freedom Movement wanted to operate legally.

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MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Cleric rules out early hostage release

BEIRUT (R) — A senior Lebanese Shi'ite religious leader ruled out an early release for the 17 Westerners missing and believed kidnapped in Lebanon because of what he described as "new complications." Sheikh Mohammad Mehdi Shamseddine, vice-president of the Higher Shi'ite Council, interviewed by the Al Shira'a weekly over the weekend said: "There are no new factors that could lead to a breakthrough in the hostage issue. Instead new complications have surfaced." Shamseddine did not spell out of the obstacles in Al Shira'a. Asked if he was hopeful for an early settlement to the hostage situation he said: "In fact, no. This problem has become very ugly. Those capable of putting an end to it should do so because it has become a stigma in our environment."

Smuggling rings arrested in Iran

NICOSIA (AP) — Iranian police arrested three separate groups of smugglers Sunday, one a drug ring and two others trafficking in antiquities, Tehran Radio reported. The groups smuggling antiquities were captured in Urumiyyeh and Bazargan, near the border with Turkey, said the report, monitored in Nicosia. Police seized a total of 1,500 historical artifacts, some dating back to 2,000 B.C., it said. Items seized included silver, precious stones, cloth and clocks. The report did not specify how many people were arrested. The drug smuggling ring was arrested in the northeastern city of Gonbad. Thirteen people were arrested and police seized 515 grammes of heroin and six kilograms of opium. Police also confiscated cash, checks and three motorcycles, the report said. Iran is estimated to have between 500,000 and one million drug addicts and a tough new anti-drug law designed to stamp out the problem went into effect last month. It mandates the death penalty for 30 grammes of heroin and five kilos. More than a hundred smugglers have been executed under the new law.

Two Afghans held for smuggling arms

QUETTA, Pakistan (R) — Police arrested two Afghans and seized two trucks loaded with arms near the borders of Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iran, officials said Monday. The arms included anti-aircraft guns, remote control bombs, rockets, rocket launchers, Kalashnikov assault rifles and ammunition, and were being brought into Pakistan. The two men were arrested in Pakistan's Girdi forest near Dalbandin, about 32 kilometres from the border. Officials did not say what the men intended to do with the arms.

GCC population to hit 27.8 by 2000

BAHRAIN (AP) — A regional study Monday forecast an increase of nine million in the collective population of countries member of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) by the turn of the century. The Gulf News Agency said figures compiled by Bahrain's central statistical agency said the collective population in the six states will rise to 19,535 million next year, 23,226 by 1995 and 27,860 by the year 2000. The GCC groups Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia. The present GCC population was estimated by the study at 18.6 million. It estimated the average annual rate of GCC population increase until 1990 at 3.63 per cent, dropping to 3.29 per cent in the next five years and to 3.2 until the end of the century. Saudi Arabia is the most populated country among the GCC states. The study said the kingdom's population four years ago was 11,240 million, and expected to reach 13,506 million by 1990, 16,50 million by 1995 and 18,664 at the turn of the century. Population figures by 1990 in the five other GCC states were estimated at 503,000 for Bahrain, 1,544 million for the UAE, 1,430 million for Oman, 354,000 for Qatar and 2,188 million for Kuwait.

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Candle light dinner in
an elegant atmosphere

Jabal Amman - between 5th, 6th circle. Tel. 821985

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 72111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children programmes
17:00 Educational programme
17:30 Religious programme
18:00 News summary in Arabic
18:05 Programme on world news
18:30 Programme on children
19:10 Agricultural programme
19:45 Programme review
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Programme review
21:30 Local programme
22:30 Arabic programme
23:00 News summary in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 La Belle Anglaise
19:00 News in French
19:15 French varieties
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 What's the Boss
21:10 The Tin Flute
22:00 News in English
22:30 Hunter

PRAYER TIMES

04:58 Fajr
06:16 (Sunrise) Duha
11:59 Dhuhur
14:56 'Asr

CHURCHES

Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrasanta Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 775261.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Armenian International Church Tel. 685326.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295.
Rainbow Congregation Tel. 823605.
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 821264.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

The depression which affected the area in the last two days moved in the east and is centred now north of Iraq. The effect of the cold air mass will

continue, specially in the southern and eastern areas. So it will be cloudy to partly cloudy with a slight rise in temperature and scattered snow is expected in the southern region at times. In Aqaba, it will be partly cloudy with a chance for scattered showers. Winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Amman Min./max. temp. -1 / 8
Aqaba 4 / 15
Deserts -1 / 7
Jordan Valley 5 / 14

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 6, Aqaba 14, Humidity readings: Amman 83 per cent, Aqaba 45 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Mohammad Al Ahbadi 778999
Dr. Ahmed Al Dagh 676453
Dr. Sami Khouri 681373
Dr. Khalid Ma'adi 743500
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 778336

DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Al Asema pharmacy 637055
Nairoukh pharmacy 636762
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660

IRBID:
Dr. Munther Al Sheikh Salem (-)
Al Sharara pharmacy (985238)

ZARQA:
Dr. Khalil Abu Hussein (-)
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630341
Rescue 199
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 62111, 63777
Fire Brigade 622090/93
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 656390/91
Public Security Department 685111
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 661176
Amman Municipality 784111
Complaints 784111

Telephone Information (directory assistance) 12
Overseas Calls 17
Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-52000

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn. 644281/6
Akileh Maternity, J. Amn. 64241/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 664171/4
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
Al-Musader Hospital 645845
The Islamic, Abdali 665127/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 751112/6
Army, Marka 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 822405/50

Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarga Govt. Hospital (09)983322
Zarga National Hospital (09)991071
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)98732
IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275
Ibn Al Nalees Hospital (02)247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in lbs per kg.
Apple 500 / 450
Banana 350 / 300
Banana (Mukannar) 300 / 250
Beans 750 / 650
Broad beans 800 / 700
Cabbage 210 / 160
Carrots 240 / 200
Cauliflower 270 / 200
Cucumbers 600 / 500
Dates 600 / 500
Eggplant 280 / 200
Garlic 230 / 180
Grapefruit 220 / 160
Lemon 250 / 200
Lettuce (per one) 150 / 100
Marrow (large) 500 / 400
Marrow (small) 700 / 600

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

09:30 Cairo (MS)
10:30 Kuwait (KU)
12:15 Baghdad (IA)
13:20 Moscow, Larnaca (SU)
15:45 Tripoli (LN)
17:00 Dubai, Damascus (EK)
17:45 Rome (AZ)
19:45 Beirut (ME)
20:00 Zurich, Larnaca (SR)
06:25 London, Cairo (BA)

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEE ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport. Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

04:30 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
08:55 Baghdad (RJ)
09:10 Aqaba (RJ)
09:15 Cairo (RJ)
09:30 Jeddah (RJ)
09:50 Cairo (RJ)
09:55 Muscat, Dubai (RJ)
09:55 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
10:00 Abu Dhabi, Kuwait (RJ)
10:30 Montreal, New York (RJ)
16:20 Miami, Vienna (RJ)
17:55 Copenhagen, Frankfurt (RJ)
18:45 Athens, Istanbul (RJ)

DEPARTURES Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:55 Aqaba (RJ)
11:00 Vienna, New York (RJ)
11:10 Istanbul, Athens (RJ)
11:45 Frankfurt, Brussels (RJ)
11:45 Rome, Madrid (RJ)
12:00 Geneva, London (RJ)
12:15 Zurich, Larnaca (SR)
19:40 Kuwait, Doha (RJ)
20:00 Larnaca (RJ)
20:20 Cairo (RJ)
20:20 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
21:00 Damascus (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

10:30 Cairo (MS)
11:30 Larnaca (KU)
13:30 Baghdad (IA)
14:50 Larnaca, Moscow (SU)
16:45 Kuwait (LN)
18:00 Dubai (EK)
18:35 Damascus (AZ)

Markets to get ample supply of poultry meat

ZARQA (Petra) — The Ministry of Supply, in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture, strives to provide sufficient poultry meat for the Jordanian markets and it plans to make available abundant quantities during the holy month of Ramadan. Minister of Supply Fayez Tarawneh announced here Monday.

Tarawneh made the statement during an inspection tour of Supply Department installations in Zarqa where he discussed the supply situation in the governorate.

The bad weather conditions prevented the arrival of imported shipments of fresh meat to the local markets but considerable quantities are due here shortly, the minister noted. He said 1,400 tonnes of frozen poultry will arrive before the end of February.

The Ministry of Supply strives to make available sufficient amounts of basic consumer commodities, and the government subsidises these commodities on a constant basis, the minister said in his reference to a number of supply matters.

The Zarqa governor and directors of local departments were among those present at the meeting.

Tarawneh later inspected the automated bakery in Hashemieh near Zarqa and was briefed on its production.

The minister was accompanied on the tour by the Ministry's Secretary General Abdullah Al Hawamdeh and a number of aides.

American journalists visit Jordan Valley

AMMAN (Petra) — A group of American journalists representing the U.S. National Newspaper Association (NNA) visited the Jordan Valley region Monday and were briefed by the Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) Director General Muhammad Bani Hani on the region's development projects.

The group, which is on a fact finding tour of the region, visited a number of projects carried out by the JVA and inspected farmlands.

The journalists Sunday evening called at the World Affairs Council (WAC) and attended an open

CAEU chief voices support for Arab Cooperation Council

AMMAN (Petra) — The Amman-based Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) has voiced its backing for the projected Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) which will group Jordan, Iraq, Egypt and North Yemen.

CAEU Secretary General Hassan Ibrahim, in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said that the projected regional economic alliance contains all positive elements that can ensure the free flow of goods and people, for trade and work, and for exchanging national products. "It paves the way for investments which augur well for an Arab economic integration on a wider scale."

"Economic alliance serve as the best means of dealing with the growing economic challenges in our present age and provides protection for national interests," Ibrahim noted.

The emergence of such alliances within the Arab World is bound to lay the foundation for a pan-Arab entity capable of confronting the challenges of the future, Ibrahim added.

Indeed, he said, the economic groupings fall in line with the CAEU's policies which aim to achieve a pan-Arab economic unity and an Arab common market free from all barriers.

Ibrahim made the statement upon his return here from Baghdad where he took part in a seminar tackling the economic policies of the Arab World in the wake of the eight-year-old Gulf war.

Ibrahim delivered a speech to the two-day seminar in which he tackled joint Arab economic alliance and Arab economic alliances which, he said, were important as "they help the Arab nation to



Hassan Ibrahim confront new world economic challenges.

Jordan and Mauritania reach energy cooperation agreement

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and Mauritania have reached agreement on cooperation in energy related fields through their respective electricity authorities following talks held here between the Mauritanian National Water and Electricity Company and the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA).

Under the agreement, which will be formally signed during February, the JEA will undertake to carry out an electrification project in 13 Mauritanian cities and villages.

The agreement and the talks followed a feasibility study conducted by JEA in cooperation with a foreign firm in Mauritania one and a half years ago.

According to the JEA announcement, the two sides held extensive and detailed talks on the project over the past four days tackling the technical, administrative and financial aspects of the scheme and priorities to be

taken care of immediately.

A joint committee has been formed to follow up the implementation of the programme, according to the announcement.

It said that such questions as tender documents, designs and supervisory work for the implementation of the project in Mauritania and the employment of Jordanian engineers in the project, were all discussed at the meetings.

Weather causes 57 accidents in Greater Amman

Depression phasing out

AMMAN (J.T.) — A depression which affected Jordan in the past two days is phasing out gradually and the temperatures which reached a maximum of five degrees Celsius Monday are expected to go as high as eight degrees Tuesday, according to predictions by the Meteorology Department.

until it was reopened for traffic, according to the reports.

They said that seven electric posts collapsed in the snow storm falling on several cars in the Amman area but causing no casualties.

The Civil Defence authorities were called out to provide help and rescue operations in most cases, the reports said.

The cold wave brought rain and snow to northern, central and southern regions of the Kingdom, prompting concerned authorities to close universities, community colleges and schools due to blockages of roads, landslides, the severe weather conditions and fog that enveloped many districts making travel hazardous.

Reports in the local press Monday said that no less than 57 road accidents occurred within the Greater Amman region alone as a result of slippery roads especially on Sunday evening.

The snow, which fell on mountainous regions of 750 to 1,200 metres high, was caused by the depression which was accompanied by several cold fronts and very cold air coming from Soviet Union through Turkey and Greece, according to the department.

The snow stranded nearly 50 cars along the Queen Alia International Airport and cut off students at the Prince Hamzeh School along the airport highway

On Tuesday, the Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) announced that a total of 79,644,685 cubic metres of water has now been collected in reservoirs behind dams in the Kingdom. It said that until Monday there was 62 million cubic metres at the King Talal Dam, 10,386,000 cubic metres at Wadi Al Arah Dam, 3,076,000 at the Sharhabil Dam, 1,157,685 cubic metres at Shu'eib Dam and 3,025,000 cubic metres of water at Kafra Dam.

JVA stops sales on east coast of Dead Sea

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) board has requested a number of Jordanian departments to stop all procedures related to buying and selling land along the eastern coast of the Dead Sea from Sweimeh town in the Jordan Valley and as far as Haditha town in the south.

The request was made to the Ministries of Public Works and Housing, Finance, Tourism, Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Department of Lands and Survey, according to a board

statement here Monday.

It said that the request was made because the JVA was in the process of appropriating the lands in these areas in order to carry out economic, social and tourism development projects there.

The announcement was made following a JVA board meeting during which the appropriation issue was discussed along with the question of appropriating land which will be affected by the Al Wadiah Dam near the Jordanian-Syrian border.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

JORDAN SETTLES CAEU BUDGET SHARE: The government has settled its share of the budget for the Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU). The council's Secretary General, Hassan Ibrahim has said that the Jordanian government's move reinforces the role of Arab organisations and serves Arab integration in all fields. (Petra)

CABINET ENDORSES HUWARAH MAYOR: The Cabinet has endorsed the appointment of Barakat Mahmoud Shatnawi as Mayor of Huwarah in Irbid Governorate. (Petra)

LOANS TO MUNICIPAL COUNCILS: The Cities and Villages Development Bank (CVDB) last year granted JD 6,406,700 in loans to municipal and village councils in Jordan, according to bank officials here Monday. They said that a total of 111 out of nearly 200 loans were used to finance the purchase of equipment and machinery used in production projects. The bank granted most of the loans to projects for which feasibility studies had been made by the council, the officials said. They said that part of the loans financed the construction of roads. (Petra)

CONFERENCE ON CANCER: The first conference on cancer will be held at the University of Jordan on March 21 under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor. A committee to prepare for this conference has been set up. (Petra)

KOURA ROAD PROJECTS: The Ministry of Public Works and Housing has allocated JD 165,000 for opening a number of roads in the Koura district. (Petra)

EGYPTIAN SPORTS OFFICIAL TO ARRIVE: The head of Egypt's Supreme Council for Sports and Youth, Dr. Abdul Abad Jamal Al Din, will visit Jordan on Feb. 22. During the five-day visit, he will hold talks with officials from the Ministry of Youth on means to develop relations in the field of youth activities and sports. (Petra)

HAMDAN LEAVES FOR MAURITANIA: The Yarmouk University President, Dr. Mohammad Hamdan, Monday left for Mauritania to participate in the 22nd session of the Association of Arab Universities which will begin at Nouakchott University Tuesday. (Petra)

TRAINING WORKSHOP AT QOU: Dr. Walid Kambawi, president of Al-Quds Open University (QOU) opened a six-day training workshop to prepare educational materials for distance education. Sixteen participants from the universities of the occupied West Bank are taking part in this workshop which lasts from Feb. 11 to 16. Specific areas of distance education to be covered are audiovisual aids, instructional design, editing and evaluation. This present workshop is the second held by QOU to orient the staff of West Bank universities with the characteristics and techniques of distance education. (J.T.)

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ An art exhibition by Paul and Emanuel Guiragoussian at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation.
- ★ An exhibition of lithographies by French artist Jean-Paul Chambas at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ The Arab Contemporary Artists exhibition at Al Wasiti Gallery.
- ★ An exhibition of drawings and watercolours of German Romanticism at Mu'ta University.
- ★ An exhibition entitled "Town Squares of Europe" at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ An art exhibition entitled "Warm Colours in the Jordanian Environment" by students from the University of Jordan, at the Yarmouk University.
- ★ An exhibition of models of the Jordanian plastic art, in which 22 Jordanian artists are participating, at the Spanish Cultural Centre — 5:00 p.m.
- ★ An exhibition entitled "The Tuerbingen Atlas of the Middle East" (with a lecture by Dr. Adel Abdul Salam) at the Department of Geography, the University of Jordan — 12:00 noon.

LECTURE

- ★ A lecture by Dr. Ibrahim Dwarir entitled "minerals in our life today and tomorrow" at the Goethe Institute — 7:00 p.m.

FILMS

- ★ A British film entitled "A Month in the Country" which is shown as part of the European Film Week at the Royal Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.
- ★ Two films shown as part of the American Centre's Programme "Filmmakers": The first is on "Sound in Film" and the other on Dick Alweis, a film editor — 7:00 p.m.

CBJ team back from Iraq

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation from the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) returned to Amman Monday after talks in Baghdad on implementing an agreement concerning settling payments for goods exchanged by the two countries.

CBJ Governor Hussein Al Qasem, who led the delegation, said that the talks in Baghdad ended with the signing of an agreement on arrangements for settling payments through the central banks in Amman and Baghdad in accordance with the

provisions of the joint Jordanian-Iraqi Higher Committee resolutions of last month.

Under the agreement Iraq will purchase \$163 million worth of Jordanian industrial and agricultural products.

The two sides agreed that all purchases of Jordanian products should be conducted through letters of credit not exceeding the sums agreed on by the higher committee, Qasem noted.

The two central banks he added have agreed to inform each other of the required imports on monthly basis.

Hmoud to head delegation to talks on environment

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment will take part in an international conference on controlling the process of dumping dangerous waste, which will be held in Switzerland in March, according to a ministry statement Monday.

Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs Marwan Hmoud will take part in the three-day meeting which is organised by the

United Nations in the City of Basel.

At the conference, the participants will sign an agreement to be known as the "international agreement on the transboundary movement of perilous waste," according to the statement.

It said that the minister will be accompanied to the meetings by the director of the Department of Environment.

Police apprehend thieves

AMMAN (J.T.) — A group of seven thieves has been apprehended in the Amman area after committing several acts of embezzlement and fraud in the capital, according to Al Dostour daily quoting a police spokesman here.

The report said that the police had received a number of complaints from store-owners about receiving checks with no accounts in the bank.

The group had opened a number of offices in the capital through which they had been running their illicit operations under the disguise of working as general traders, the report said.

It said that some of the group members had previous police records as forgers of cheques with which they paid for goods.

It was when the cheques began to bounce that the whole fraudulent business came to light, the report added. It said that the gang has now been referred to court for trial.

U.K. assists in Jordan's campaign against locusts

AMMAN (J.T.) — The British government has recently donated to the Ministry of Agriculture 100 suits of protective clothing to be used in its campaign against locusts.

Although most pesticides now in use are not considered harmful, care has to be taken when spraying takes place. At such times the technician carrying out the work is liable to be exposed to relatively high concentration of chemicals which could be harmful.

The suits, which include goggles, respirators and gloves, provide full protection to the user.

Meanwhile an order for six aircraft spraying systems has been placed with the U.K. company Micronair Ltd. for supply to the Ministry of Agriculture and Royal Jordanian Air Force, who are co-operating in locust control.

Aerial spraying has been shown to be the most effective method of combating locust swarms and the Micronair sprayer is considered to be the best available.

Fears of new terror group

Arab town of Qalqilya Sunday in an attempt to defuse the tension. Troops broke up the meeting on the grounds that it was not coordinated with the military.

Sarid and Zucker from the Citizens Rights Movement wrote to attorney general Yusef Harish saying the militia operated around the clock to punish, intimidate and retaliate against Palestinians.

They said the force was supplied by reserve soldiers who took weapons from the army.

"If this militia is not uprooted in the very near future, the situation in the West Bank will be much more serious and dangerous than in recent times," Sarid told Reuters Sunday.

The terrorist underground in the early 1980s planted bombs in Arab buses, killed Palestinian students, maimed West Bank mayors in carbomb explosions and planned to blow up the Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem.

Jordan, N. Yemen have big potential for cooperation

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — Jordan and North Yemen, which plan to become part of the projected Arab Cooperation Council (ACC), have immense potentials for cooperation in the fields of trade, agriculture, industry, education, health and other fields, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Cooperation is an essential objective of the planned regional bloc which is to be proclaimed this month — grouping Egypt, Iraq, North Yemen and Jordan, according to the agency statement on the eve of the historic occasion.

Economic ties strengthened between Amman and Sanaa especially after the 1984 agreement, which aimed to boost bilateral trade and pave the way for cooperation in a number of other fields, the agency noted.

According to Petra, His Majesty King Hussein's visit to North Yemen in 1985 was instrumental

in promoting such ties and developing bilateral trade, which between 1982 and 1987, amounted to JD 9.3 million.

In 1987 the Jordanian-North Yemeni Higher Committee held a meeting to discuss means of further boosting economic and trade ties, and this has paved the way for Jordanian cement and agricultural exports to North Yemen, Petra added.

It said that 1987 witnessed an exchange of visits by senior government officials from either country for discussions on means of promoting cooperation in communications, transport, health and higher education and on political matters of common concern.

Since that date a number of high level meetings had been held paving the way for greater degrees of coordination and cooperation in housing, public works, energy and electricity, nursing, archaeology, science, education, culture, economy, agriculture

and industry, the agency pointed out.

The last of these meetings, it said, was held last month in Amman co-chaired by the prime ministers of the two countries.

The agency noted that Jordan and North Yemen are keen on launching joint economic and investment schemes which came under discussions at last month's meeting.

The two sides, it added, are now in agreement on investment projects in industry, housing, construction, and communications. Among the joint ventures that can be initiated immediately are: Solar heaters, furniture, animal feed, marble stone, food processing, textiles, pharmaceuticals as well as plastic and chemical industries.

Referring to agriculture in Jordan, the agency said that it constitutes the main source of income for 20 per cent of the population and provides work for 20 per cent

of the total workforce in the Kingdom.

The agency noted that Jordan has made great strides in the application of modern techniques in agriculture, particularly in the use of drip irrigation and plastic culture, to produce more abundant crops which can benefit North Yemen.

In contrast, Yemen's agriculture depends largely on rain water and the farmlands are all on mountainous regions.

In industry, the agency said, Jordan and North Yemen have both witnessed positive developments recently. Jordan has developed its potash, electricity, chemical fertilisers, batteries, and affiliated industries, while North Yemen has been concentrating on food processing industries, textiles, wood, plastic, soap and scent industries. It said that both countries can complement each other in these industries.

Guiragoussians display interesting works

By Meg Abu Hamdan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Paul Guiragoussian is now in his early sixties. Yet his art, on exhibition at the Abdul Hamid Shoman Gallery until the end of the month, seems younger and more vital than ever. This is perhaps not so surprising when one thinks of the tremendously lively character of the artist himself whose restless energy tumbles out of a mind that never ceases questioning and reassessing. But often when artists reach the latter part of their careers they become stale and repetitive. Not so with Guiragoussian who has taken the other path of mature artists — that of producing some of the most interesting works of their lives.

The many years of painting continuously, of always working hard at his art in which he has achieved not inconsiderable international success and acclaim, has enabled Guiragoussian to reach that rare level of confidence that gives him total freedom. And it is this freedom from not having to worry what is wrong or right, this freedom of knowing exactly how to obtain on canvas and paper what he sees in his head without even having to think about it, that makes each piece of his art subtly unique and individual while remaining very recognisably his own work.

This exhibition is a first in several respects. It is the first time both father and son, Emmanuel Guiragoussian have exhibited their work together allowing us to draw some very pertinent conclusions as to the effect each has had on the other, and it is also the first time Paul has exhibited his watercolours here in Amman. It is the latter which immediately attract the attention as they are gems of their genre.

The range of these watercolours is such that it is almost impossible to generalise, but all of them play with the abstracted form of the human figure and with light, space and colour. Some consist of not more than ten brushstrokes of colour, a simplicity that belies a tremendous technical ability. In one quick dab these linear strokes change from black to purple, from orange to magenta, from dark and rich to so

thinly transparent that the texture of the paper emerges as dots of light. And as these strokes of colour change from one shade to another so they themselves turn from abstract lines to figures of women, of people jostling together in a crowded street. Like a film of the overcrowded Manhattan pavements, these works pulse with life and an endless variety of colour. But unlike the people who throng the avenues of Manhattan these people are mostly women with covered heads and at once there is nothing Western about them. At the same time there is an air about these figures that changes from what at first seems to be a purposeful jostling to the aimless wanderings of the confused and frightened.



One of the paintings by Paul Guiragoussian on display at the Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation

ART REVIEW

In other watercolours, blocky shapes like truncated torsos float individually over the paper left bare below, their soft light colours — pale yellows, rose pinks, translucent blues — linked by spidery streaks of deeper shades. In yet others the shapes crowd in on one another, their opaque colours becoming the vehicles for patterns that complement the roughness of the paper. In all of these works however, there is a perfect balance of composition, an airy freshness and in particular a wonderful sense of what can only be described as "joie de vivre."

Larger and even more colourful are Paul's mixed media (tempera and pastels) works which bridge the gap between the watercolours — which are in effect studies for his oils — and his oils. Tending towards the more abstract, the shapes in these works mix and merge, their thick matt colours becoming almost sludgy in texture and tone. Across the surface of these shapes patches of hastily applied pastel colours, as well as patterns of stripes, grids and dots add energy and an interesting strange creamy roughness.

By exhibiting oils that range from the figurative to the totally abstract, Paul enables us to follow his line of thinking and allows us to see how he reached his end point. The strength of his oils lies

again in his bright joyful colours and in the depth of their application. Each shape is haloed several times by colours that lie below and these instead of lines define them, give them their presence. The tightness of his compositions gives his work its energy, its tenseness which is further enhanced in the more abstract pieces by superimposed patterns. Whether a riot of different but carefully balanced colours or tones of the same shades these works take on the irresponsible air of a patchwork quilt; one not stitched with thread but with lines of colour.

Emmanuel's oils are much more sombre in colour than those of his father and at first they seem — with their big bold forms and rushing black lines — to be stronger, more expansive and bold. Yet as one looks, one realises that although Emmanuel's oils may not be so compact in composition as his father's work, they are in fact the more intense of the two, the reversal coming as something of a shock once perceived. And so instead of the dark colours and heavy black lines drowning the tiny watercolours which hang by the sides of these works, it is the fresh purity of the watercolours, their light and space, that dominate Emmanuel's large oils.

Like his father, Emmanuel's abstracts are based on the human form or rather portions of it. Continuing on his theme of the

body as landscape Emmanuel paints the rise of a knee like a small mountain, a sensuous torso becomes a gap between rocks, the trunk of a tree. The only indication that they are not natural landmarks but parts of a body, are the small black lines that run like scaffolding across the forms, donating the curve of a muscle, the protrusion of a rib. Again Emmanuel has achieved a wide range in his work from the very literal — the best example of which is the proud, prancing horse, its power and strength accentuated by huge glossy muscles — to the totally abstract in which big courageous, geometric shapes are slashed through with dynamic black lines.

It is in the portrayal of that dynamism, of movement that Emmanuel's work differs considerably from that of his father. For where Emmanuel's colours are more subtle and worked than his father's, it is his father's more oblique way of capturing the feeling of energy rather than the energy itself that is the more effective. Finally it must be said that Emmanuel's work is not so consistently good as his father's, a few of the pieces at this exhibition are not working quite as well as they could.

Comparisons between the two could go on and, unfairly and unnecessarily, on. The fact is that both are very great artists. The exhibition runs until Feb. 25.

Jordan Times

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Jordan Times Advertising Department.

The white snow conspiracy

IT IS interesting, if not outright puzzling, to notice, how everytime we get a few centimetres of snow life comes to a halt! The first aspect of Jordanian life to "panic" at the sight of the first few millimetres of snow is of course our institutions of learning. Soon afterwards the chain reaction to the closure of schools and universities picks up speed to give every Jordanian Tom, Dick and Harry a license to take a day or two of extra holidays. By and large the first of "vacationers" are the young ones among us who happen to make up more than half of the total population. The "older" generation are thus left on their own to "sweat out" the dreary long office hours in paralysing work conditions.

One would have thought that Jordanians of all walks of life would have gotten used to snow by now since we get it not once a year but twice or three times! And as our young energetic generation takes it out on the snow by playing with it all day long, unperturbed by any "hazards" that are traditionally associated with snow games, there is really no reason for them to take time out from their classrooms or offices on the pretext that snow makes their itineraries to and from their normal destinations unusually hazardous.

And come to think of it, whatever happened to the "greenhouse effect" theory that the world has gotten used to hearing about and which "promised" the heating up of the planet Earth as a consequence of burning up too much fossil fuel? Considering the unusual cold weather conditions that our region has been experiencing of late, this heating up phenomenon should be shot to pieces out of scientific journals. If anything the Middle East region is getting colder and not warmer as projected. In fact Jordanians are missing the good old days when our winters were short and mild. Meanwhile, this effect of the greenhouse phenomenon seems to hit Europe, especially its skiing slopes, with a vengeance this year. By all accounts European ski tourism this year has been devastated, costing winter resorts hundreds of millions of dollars. All these freak weather conditions happened while places like Alaska have been experiencing record cold weather measuring down to 65 degrees below zero!

All these physical phenomena prompt one to call it the white snow conspiracy. The closure of schools and offices over the last two days must have cost the country much money. Fortunately Jordanians are not so materialistically minded people as to measure few extra days off from work and studies in monetary terms. Our culture takes these things in its stride, while maybe whispering the good old song: "Que sera sera." But considering that Jordanians, whether old or young, do not really have much of a weekend, it appears only just that nature in the form of white snow would come to their rescue by offering them some compensation for much denied leisure time that need not be spent on traditional social duties, be they pleasant or sad!

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i daily on Monday said that the Arab arena is currently witnessing an international activity designed to bring about peace to the Middle East. Besides the current tour of European Community foreign ministers, a British minister has embarked on a tour of Iraq, Kuwait and Bahrain and the Soviet foreign minister will head for this region shortly to discuss the Arab-Israeli conflict, the paper noted. It said this keen interest in the developments of this region comes as a direct response to the Arab Nation's clear and open orientation towards peace and also as a fruit of the uprising in Palestine and the PLO's declaration of acceptance of U.N. Security Council resolutions. There is no doubt that the Europeans will find that their initiative is in line with the Arab policies with regard to an end to the state of war and will ascertain that the Arab Nation is willingly seeking peace and stability following long years of struggle and unrest, the paper added.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily Monday comments on the projected Arab Cooperation Council (AAC) which will group Jordan, North Yemen, Iraq and Egypt. Fehai Al Fanek says that those who engineered the idea were certain that Jordan can play a pivotal role due to its geographical location and the tacit diplomatic skill of His Majesty King Hussein. Jordan for its part is not advocating the idea of an economic grouping as a diplomatic luxury but rather because this country will benefit greatly from such regional bloc and because it is acting in line with the principles of the Great Arab Revolt that call for unity among Arabs. Above all, Fanek says, Jordan is a small country whose moderate policies are acceptable to all the states in the region and following the rupture of links with the West Bank it is natural for the Kingdom to seek strong links with other Arab countries in pursuit of its national goals and objectives.

Al Dustour daily discussed King Hussein's address to the American journalists whom he briefed on the situation in the Middle East and emphasised the need for peace that could come through an international conference. The King voiced optimism over the prevailing East-West détente and the favourable world political situation which is conducive to solving regional conflicts and ending world tensions, the paper said. The paper said that it was hoped that the present situation would prompt major powers to remove all obstacles remaining in the path of a Middle East peace and that includes Israel's intransigence. It is not reasonable to see the Israeli leadership's rejectionist policies creating tension in the world while major powers continue to work closely for peace and world security, the paper said. Peace in the Middle East, the paper said can come immediately once the Israeli side has been made to accept the world community's resolutions and once Tel Aviv has responded favourably to the PLO's positive bid.

Sawt Al Shaab daily tackled the King's statement at a meeting with a group of American journalists. The King explained Jordan's position vis-a-vis the Middle East question and called for the implementation of U.N. resolutions through an international conference, the paper said.

Weekly Political Pulse

Strike while the iron is hot

By Waleed Sadi

IF ISRAELI leaders think that they can have their troops cross the Israeli borders into any Arab territory, engage any elements belonging to the PLO, kill them and then cry wolf and accuse the killed ones as being terrorists, then there is no limit to what Israel may do to make a point or two to the American side.

That is exactly what Israel did last week when its occupying armed forces "intercepted" five Palestinians on Lebanese territory and shot them dead. If this is the kind of logic that Israel would like the Americans to accept as basis for revoking the U.S. decision to negotiate with the PLO, then there is nothing that can stop Israeli troops from crossing into any other Arab country, engage any Arab force and then bring charges that the "liquidated" force was about to practice acts of terrorism against Israel! Ironically this fallacious and lopsided Israeli perspective continued unabated even on the heels of the U.S. State Department human rights report for 1988 in which Washington accused Israel point blank of abominable human rights violations in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Had the drafters of this American human rights report avoided diplomatic niceties and acted with less sensitivity to Jewish and Israeli feelings, they would have made a stronger case to substantiate the charge that Israeli troops are engaged in daily acts of terrorism against unarmed Palestinians of all ages, particularly children. Fortunately however, all the whitewashing done to lessen the gravity of the accusation levelled against the Israelis did not succeed in biding the fact that Israeli occupying troops are drowned up to their ears

in all sorts of terrorist acts against the Palestinian people.

If there is one redeeming development out of all this Israeli terrorism in the occupied territories it is the message transmitted by the latest polls taken in Israel which reveal for the first time ever that Israelis now tend to be more dovish than their aging leaders and that a sizable segment of them are becoming more susceptible to the Arab point of view on the fundamentals of the issues of war and peace in the Middle East.

This kind of evolution in Israeli public opinion in the direction of reasonableness can be helped and accelerated by international public opinion especially in the Western world with which Israelis feel they have cultural affinity. Crystal clear positions, as the one taken by U.S. Vice-President Dan Quayle when he cautioned Israel that the killing of Palestinians is "clearly unacceptable", are the sort of stands that the Israeli body politic needs to bolster its embryonic peaceful sentiments.

It is also encouraging to hear that the U.S. reacted cautiously to Israel's arrogant demand that the coo-prejudicial talks between Washington and the PLO should end forthwith on the grounds of the South Lebanon incident. After promising to look into the matter, the U.S. government have decided to reject the Israeli advice. Such developments could help shape a new Israeli psychology, one that is more conducive to the continuation of the peace process in the Middle East. Above all, such developments would abort all Israeli desperate attempts to label the mainstream of the PLO as terrorist through and through. This is out to

mention the fact that this path would end the insatiable Israeli appetite to maintain its troops on Arab soil and exploit their presence to wage terrorist acts against Arabs be they Palestinians or otherwise and then scream that they were the terrorists.

Still, there remains the issue of how to maintain the momentum of the American-Palestinian dialogue. With the Bush administration wishing to put its participation in the attempts to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflicts on hold, pending the conclusion of its soul searching on all foreign matters, there is fear that lack of progress in the U.S.-PLO talks could touch off a regression and an end to the momentum that was initially sparked by the first encounter between the two sides. There is a saying that goes: "one should strike while the iron is hot," and there is anxiety over that the iron is getting cold and less amenable to any striking if we all wait a little longer. And if that iron cools off then the whole foundation of the peace process will not only cool off but may very well freeze.

Of course there are still ways available to keep the iron hot: Stop Israeli tactics of pouring cold water on it every time the eyes of the world are turning somewhere else. Perhaps the most effective way is to preempt all futuristic Israeli designs on it by declaring openly and forcefully to Israeli leaders that they better start paying attention to the sentiments of their own people and stop their mischievous attacks on the PLO's commitments made public in Geneva late last year.

OPEC, non-OPEC — still worlds apart

By Maryam Schiller

VIENNA, Austria — OPEC ministers are bracing for a new round of diplomatic sparring with non-OPEC oil producers on the eve of a summit meeting of the oil group planned for Vienna.

"The message of OPEC solidarity seems not to have been heeded by major non-OPEC producers although there is some improvement in understanding our case," said one OPEC source. In particular, said the source, the Soviet Union recently has indicated its willingness to talk with OPEC members on production and quotas. Other major non-OPEC producers in Europe and North America, however, remain largely unresponsive to the Vienna-based Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries, which groups 13 countries of the Middle East, Africa and Latin America.

The problem of lack of communication between OPEC and producers outside it is a longstanding one. Tension between the two sides, originally representing "producers" and "consumers", is a historical by-product of the price increases in the 1970s. Now that the price is down, and recovery of the oil markets slow, a deep-rooted suspicion of OPEC has come in the way of what oil experts see as a much needed coordination of pricing and production policies across the board.

OPEC has been trying to build bridges with non-member producers since the boom in prices

ended in the mid-1980s. Each time it has been rebuffed by the Western oil producers outside the club, particularly Norway, Britain and the United States, who argued that they will not participate in OPEC's price fixing strategies and compromise their commitment to the free market. The OPEC's response has been that its strategy is not different from that of other commodity producers who respond to prices and supply on the market.

The planned summit, to be preceded by high-level ministerial talks in Vienna, may tackle the issue of coordination with earnestness. Venezuelan President-elect Carlos Andres Pérez, back in Caracas after a Gulf tour, said, "Many players are active in the energy market and if stability is to come, all of them will have to cooperate on basics." Pérez made the remark after a meeting with the oil ministers of Iraq, Ecuador, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela at the Venezuelan holiday resort of Macuto.

OPEC secretary-general Dr. Subroto, of Indonesia, said the Macuto talks in fact had taken note of "the appreciation being expressed by the oil industry and consumer states on the positive outcome of OPEC efforts to stabilise the market" since a new production agreement took effect on 1 January. Subroto said the baseless but rampant propaganda that "OPEC is the root of all evil," responsible for world inflation and high prices, was a thing of the past.

Despite that improvement, oil

experts point out that there is little room for complacency. As OPEC Deputy Secretary General Dr. Fadhi Al Chalabi of Iraq told delegates at a recent World Economic Forum session in Davos, Switzerland, crude oil prices were still "fragile" due to the supply and demand imbalances.

Chalabi emphasised that OPEC needed the help of non-OPEC producers and that there should be an understanding on output between the two groups. What was needed between OPEC and non-OPEC countries, he said, was a framework for cooperation rather than a formal

agreement. This could take the shape of a trilateral arrangement involving OPEC members and non-members as well as the consumers — "not to set a price, but find areas of agreement."

Chalabi confirmed that the oil group had never approached the Soviet Union with the request to

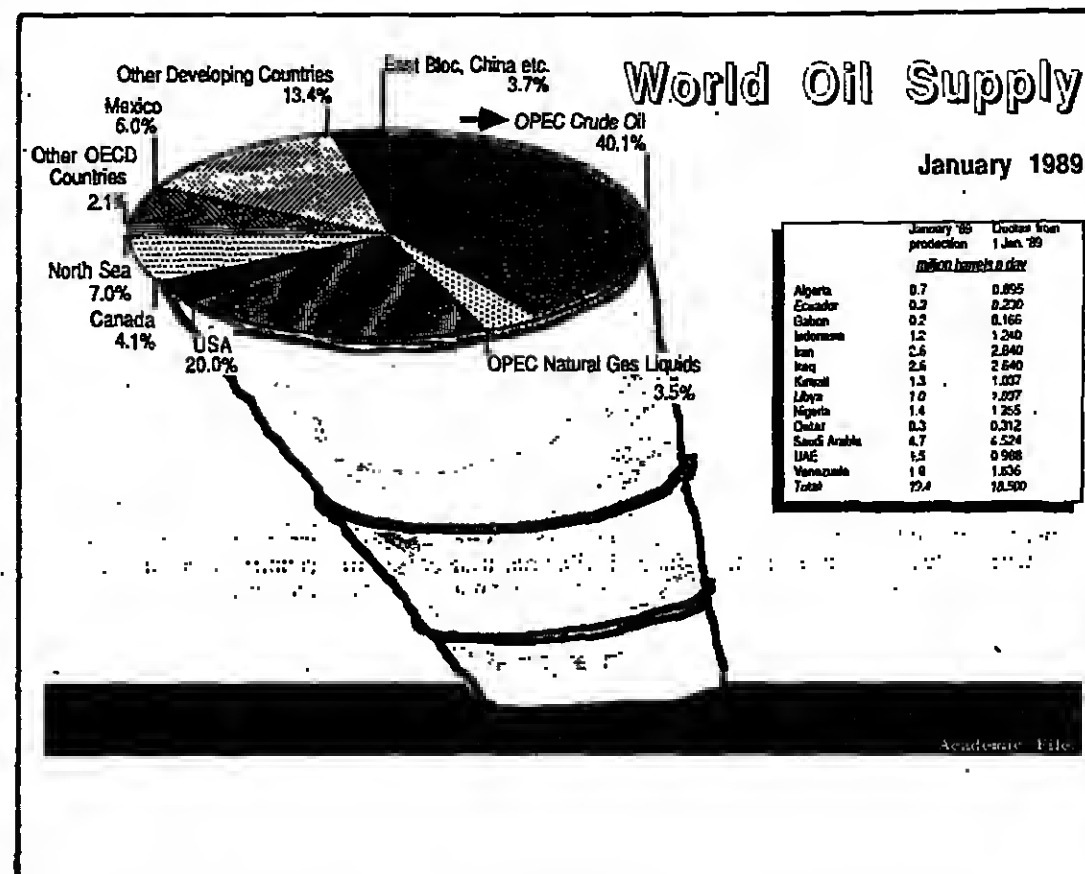
reduce its oil production, but Moscow had shown understanding for OPEC's position. No direct negotiations are believed to have taken place between OPEC and the Soviet Union, the world's largest oil producer, but Moscow has shown an interest in such a meeting.

The non-confrontational nature of OPEC's ties with the Soviet Union has been cited as an example to other non-OPEC producers. Saadallah Al Fathi, head of the energy department at the OPEC secretariat in Vienna, recently told a seminar in Spain he thought it "regrettable" that commercial oil stocks were used by Western countries to "apply undue pressure on the market rather than strictly to meet seasonal variations and to keep the overall distribution system in balance."

Such practices, he said, were harmful for everyone. World oil stocks should be regulated to serve the purpose for which they were intended in the first place and not to destabilise OPEC, said Fathi.

Whether any of that counselling will be heeded remains to be seen. As one analyst put it, "While the price remains on a roller coaster, the market and policy-making organs in the industrial countries, be those oil producers or consumers, will continue to maintain their wait-and-see posture."

"There may be some softening towards OPEC, but few of those concerned are willing to show it yet." — Academic File.



Critics ask: Is Bush another Jimmy Carter?

By Gene Gibbons
Reuter

KENNEBUNKPORT, Maine — President Bush, who spoke of a promising "new breeze" in his inaugural speech, has hit heavy weather in his first weeks in office and critical voices are growing louder already.

"Did we elect another Carter?" read the headline over a commentary by conservative columnist Kevin Phillips, referring to Jimmy Carter who was unlucky and generally unpopular as president from 1977 to 1981.

Bush, who succeeded the immensely popular Ronald Reagan on January 20, got his first taste

of the pressures that accompany the presidency when word was leaked three days later that his administration was considering a plan to impose fees on bank deposits to help stop the collapse of the U.S. savings industry.

The storm over the plan, which was quickly rejected, was still going on when a controversy erupted over whether Dr. Louis Sullivan, Bush's nominee as health secretary, was out of step with his boss's opposition to abortion.

No sooner was that resolved when questions about the character of defence secretary-designate John Tower caused a full-blown crisis for Bush that is still in

progress.

Bush's efforts to set a high ethical tone for his presidency were further hampered by more minor controversies over potential conflicts of interest involving Secretary of State James Baker and White House counsel Boyce Gray.

Phillips wrote in his column: "Nobody wants to find fault too quickly. Yet, at a little more than 50 per cent, Mr. Bush's public opinion rating is low for this stage of a presidential term."

"Already, there is sub rosa talk about a Republican enactment of Carter administration bumbling."

Bush aides shrugged off the criticism, saying these episodes

had received more attention than would normally be the case because of the lack of radical change that usually occurs when the White House changes hands.

Bush is the first president elected to succeed a leader from the same party since Herbert Hoover replaced Calvin Coolidge in 1929.

Andrew Card, deputy White House chief of staff, told Reuters: "In the first three weeks, we have done everything we set out to do."

"George Bush wanted to set a tone for his administration of ethical behaviour, service and values and he has done so."

Card noted that Bush had been

widely praised for his first political decision — using a mixture of private and public financing to raise tens of billions of dollars needed to protect government-insured savings and loan deposits and put the savings industry back on its feet.

"It was the biggest financial decision ever made by a president and he did it in his first 20 days," Card said.

Adding to Bush's problems were events beyond his control, such as Friday's double blow on the economic front: News that the wholesale price index rose by one percentage point last month, the biggest monthly jump in more than three years, and a decision

by big U.S. banks to increase their prime interest rate to 11 per cent, its highest level in four years.

Economic analysts said higher borrowing costs could make it more difficult for Bush to reduce the country's huge budget deficit, his main priority.

The bad economic news came the morning after Bush's first address to Congress.

He unveiled a \$1.16 trillion federal budget that would slow the growth in defence spending and boost funding to help achieve his vision of a "kinder, gentler" country.

He said he would reduce the deficit to \$91 billion.

Caring for beasts of burden

VISITING Jordan last week was Mr. Guy Girardeau, Chief Executive of SPANA, the Society for the Protection of Animals in North Africa. SPANA was founded in 1923 by Mrs. Frances Kate Hosall and her daughter Nina, after a visit to North Africa in 1921 in search of sunshine had appealed them when they found hundreds of instances of neglect and ignorance of pack and domestic animals. Mrs. Hosall went out alone in 1923 and began work in Algeria in the Medinas, (commercial quarters), Soaks, (country markets), and Fondouks, (enclosures for pack animals), treating wounded and bleeding saddle-sores and listless withers: herself, often in the scorching heat, shunning cynicism, scorn and indifference.

Since then SPANA has been working unceasingly in Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia for animal welfare and now gives, rest, refuge and treatment to over 300,000 animals each year. Humane bits and harnesses are supplied to replace those that are found to be crude and painful to the animals. There are now 19 permanent animal refuges and centres, and over 100 markets and souks and fondouks visited by trained dressers. The work of the Society has only been made possible by the generosity and support of many people in the United Kingdom and elsewhere, who have provided the funds to carry out the work. The Society is based in London.

Two years ago in England Her Royal Highness Princess Alia Al Hussein asked SPANA's Vice-Chairman Dr. Andrew Higgins if the Society could come to Jordan and help the working animals in the northern half of the country, the Brooke Hospital for Animals having already started to build a clinic for the tourist horses in the south at Petra. This was opened last March by Her Royal Highness and is working well. SPANA asked for and received special permission from its members for its venture into Jordan, as it was not in North Africa, and indeed not even in Africa! Dr. Higgins paid a visit to Jordan to see the situation. A special appeal was then launched for the Jordan project which has succeeded in raising £26,000 so far, entirely from British people!

A mobile clinic, which is a long-wheel-based Land-Rover, spare parts for it and medical supplies, cost over £15,000. Two

Jordanian dressers Mr. Khalid Salman and Mr. Mazin Qaisi were chosen from many applicants and were trained in the Farriery School in Hereford, U.K., and in Rabat, Morocco at the Hassan II Veterinary Institute, and also spent six weeks in southern Tunisia where SPANA has several refuges which take care of equines (horses, mules and donkeys).

The Society started work in Jordan in close collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, and Dr. Basel Arafat, a senior veterinary surgeon from the ministry has been appointed as project director for SPANA in Jordan. Her Royal Highness Princess Zein Al Hussein is its patron and the first chairperson. The agreement between SPANA and the Ministry of Agriculture was signed in December 1987 by Lady Slynna who is chairman of the SPANA Council of Management in London, and the then Minister of Agriculture Mr. Marwan Al Hmoud.

The new Jordanian Society for the Protection of Animals is now in formation, and will, it is hoped, eventually be officially registered with the Ministry of Agriculture. Meanwhile, the committee has met several times, and work with the mobile clinic began on November 7 in the Jordan Valley, Wadi El Seer, Ajloun, Salt, and many surrounding villages where there is a need for veterinary services for equines, mainly donkeys and mules used for agricultural purposes.

During his visit Mr. Girardeau spent three days out with the mobile clinic and was well pleased with its work. He saw that many animals required treatment for wounds caused by tight chains on noses, tight ropes on legs and under tails, and sore backs from heavy packs. Many were in need of worming, and others had running noses or suffered from malnutrition. What he found so pleasing was that owners would actually bring their animals to the vehicle as soon as they saw it, showing how grateful they were that they could now receive treatment for them.

One realises that the Middle East is an area where there is much human suffering, and this has always taken priority, but it must be pointed out that treating sick and injured donkeys and mules is of

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great benefit to their owners. Education is of prime importance too, as if an animal is properly cared for, it will last much longer. The two dressers are teaching the owners for instance not to rope too tightly on legs. One animal was seen to lose its entire foot some time ago because blood circulation had been cut off. Some owners have been using sharp nylon string and even telephone wire, pleading that they didn't have anything else!

Therefore, SPANA has decided to provide many webbing neck-collars to encourage tying by the neck, which is much safer and prevents rope-burns on legs, and pulled muscles and joints. New strong ropes will be provided too, and humane bits where required. Mr. Girardeau was also delighted to see the interest shown by village children, who all crowded round to see what was happening. He is keen on educating children at an early age. Copies of the book "Islamic Concern for Animals", which tells how humans should be kind to animals with over 150 quotations from the sacred writings of Islam, will hopefully appear in schools and libraries, and one copy goes round in the mobile clinic so that the dressers can quote from it to make people understand that they should be kind to animals.

A few weeks ago a large mule which sustained two broken legs after a road accident in the city was kept suffering for over 17 hours. SPANA now asks that anyone seeing such an incident in future should immediately contact Dr. Arafat to save time and many hours of pain and suffering for the victim.

The next step is fund-raising. Anyone who is interested in helping the new animal society should contact Dr. Basel Arafat at the Ministry of Agriculture Veterinary Institute at Al Qusbeh, telephone number 771111. It is hoped that some time in the future it will provide one or more animal shelters not only for equines, but also for dogs and cats, which hitherto have had no help at all. SPANA would be most grateful for support and funds.

Miss Chris Larter, (On behalf of SPANA)
P.O. Box 184540
Amman

More Jordanian yuppies

This is the second of a two part article by Samer Badaro.

Two examples we have encountered in our survey of the Jordanian yuppie telling one side of the story, those highly qualified but lowly paid for what they do. What of those that are highly paid and lowly qualified for what they pretend to do? Here is the flip side of it.

At the head of the accounting division in a public sector firm, lies another yuppie, a civil engineer by training. "Our philosophy is the right man for the wrong job," he explains. "If the work is not being done, then you have to put the person capable of addressing the shortcomings of those incapable of assuming responsibility, qualifications do not matter because one can always learn on the job. Take me for example, I knew nothing about accounting when I started here, but there was a problem and I was to fix it. My department could not have risen to its current level of efficiency fiscal management without the administrative reforms I have personally introduced." Asked whether he has any regrets about out practicing his engineering trade, he told of colleagues who had decided to tough it out with engineering, ending up with posts that pay less than the average earnings of a mediocre secretary or, worse, still looking for a job. "I am all too fortunate that my family was able to provide me with this opportunity. I have job security, benefits, a car, a chauffeur, two secretaries, a flexible

schedule, work amongst my friends and relatives, and I earn more than I could have ever dreamed off as a civil engineer."

Jordanian by birth but foreign by training, the next yuppie had the homefield advantage. He had been contracted from abroad to serve as foreign consultant to one of the country's leading development projects; thus he might have been better suited within the definition of the American YUP rather than the Jordanian YUP. Needless to say his salary towered well beyond what our "civil engineer-turned accountant" friend will ever dream of.

He spoke of a noble commitment towards the development of the "land of the fathers." Waxed eloquent, he then retorted: "I am confident of the future because we have succeeded in achieving great strides here and now. I can say that as the third world struggles to catch up with the twentieth century, we in Jordan are already being initiated into the twenty first. The post-industrial societies of North America and Europe are slowly but surely shifting their economies towards services and the tertiary sector, leaving the actual industry and agriculture to those third world countries where labour is cheap and raw materials abundant. We, as observers and advisors, have observed this here, and have thus proceeded to encourage the service sector in order to permit it to assume a leading role in the region as a whole, without getting bogged in the myriads of industrial

and its terrible social and ecological side-effects."

"Prove to me that unemployment exists in Jordan," he exclaims in obvious discomfort once his logic is questioned. "If the services emphasis has caused unemployment then explain the presence of tens of thousands of migrant workers here. There might be a slight overabundance of white collar professionals and some shortage in blue collar skilled labour; and vice-versa in terms of available jobs. But this is the fault of your educational system which is simply educating people too much."

"No, restructuring the secondary school system to emphasise vocational training would not help," asserts the indigenous foreign consultant, "because the country does not have an infrastructure, industrial or agricultural, that could sustain a sharp growth in skilled labour. Besides, nobody would recommend putting all your dear investment eggs into one basket of insecurity in the industrial or agricultural sector." Asked why not, "why because of the economic shift towards services of course." Asked why the shift in investment from productive agriculture (even if small-scale) and industry (even if light) towards services took place to start with, he exclaimed after a short silence, "well I believe that we can only present recommendations in the light of the actual conditions as and at the time we see them, and in coordination with the foresight of the

responsible administrative machinery."

We inquired if that translated into showing what was already known and telling what was desired to be heard. His response was this: "Look you have to fully comprehend the sociometric exigencies and the tautology of the process of multilateral development before you can come to terms with a radical shift in the poles of economic integration; and in the absence of such sociometric exigencies we can only emphasise what's concrete rather than what's only rudimentary and potential." At that point we decided that his argument was convoluted and congratulated him on his high success where others had failed.

We had forgotten to ask our last interviewee about his field of expertise. But just as we prepared to leave walked in a yuppie in the making, fresh back from the United States where he had studied nuclear physics, astronomy, and dance education. We apologised about not being able to interview him because his recent return to Jordan meant that the last leg of his genetic process (transplantation into original conditions) has not yet been completed.

These are a few samples of our very own Jordanian yuppie. This true revolution in genetic engineering could be your neighbour, your friend, may be even yourself. Take heart, we've come a long way.



Buzkashi is a game of courage and skill on the part of both man and horse. It is a ritual, a celebration, a test of bravery and expertise. The 'ball' or buz is the headless stuffed body of a goat or calf. Men have won and lost their reputations according to the prowess they display on the field.



Horsemen of Afghanistan

BUZKASHI is a game played by Afghan horsemen, chiefly to mark a particular occasion — the King's birthday, a wedding, a circumcision... But is 'game' the right word? It is a ritual, a celebration, a test of courage, strength and skill on the part of both man and horse. It is the culmination of years of training, a symbolic struggle that has all the power, the drama and the heart-stopping excitement of athletic prowess. It is a sport for individuals not teams. The 'ball' used in buzkashi is the headless, stuffed body of a goat or young calf, tossed between ten and a limitless number of riders, with each man as intrepid as the next on grabbing it, galloping around a distant post and riding back to triumph to the starting circle. Should he succeed, by that evening his fame will have already begun its journey through the teahouses and villages, out to the remotest shepherds on the Steppes.

In their latest work, French photographers Roland and Sabrina Michaud have created a spectacular photographic record of the game of buzkashi built up over 14 years. The Michauds came to see the modern day horsemen as archetypes, these descendants of Genghis Khan, whose ancestors terrorised the world from China to Hungary. "Various called Scythians, Huns, Turks and Mogols, all emerged from the extraordinary crucible of Central Asia, their bodies and spirits shaped by relentless nature in a hostile land where the temperature ranges from intense cold to searing heat. Sometimes shepherds, sometimes warriors, sometimes merely bandits, according to their leaders and the chances of history, they recognised in Genghis the khan of khans... Last his followers should become soft. Genghis Khan instituted compulsory hunting as a training for war. Serious practice was disguised as sport. But the tactics used in hunting — attacking it 'in the field' or 'widely' the whip, encircling it and finally killing it in close combat — were all tactics used in battle."

These self same tactics can be seen today when the horsemen of Afghanistan play buzkashi. "Whips whistle through the air, whirling like snakes, and strike unsparingly, gashing the faces of men and horses. Those on the

outside force their mounts into the centre of the furious swarm, and the horses buck, plunge, and rear up on their hind legs, eyes rolling, nostrils flaring, mouths flecked with foam. Wave upon wave the riders attack. It is not live prey in the centre of the circle now but the headless body of an animal, the buz, around which the game is played. When a horseman succeeds in throwing the carcass down in the 'circle of

justice' he wins the match. Hours of attack, pursuit, scrimmage and disengagement precede that moment, and the buz will have passed through many hands before it comes to rest on the ritual spot. Neither the elite riders, known as the chopendox, nor their horses are afraid of the savage intensity of the game: mindless of anything but the pursuit of the quarry, they seem immune to pain. "A chopendox suddenly flings himself down among the quivering legs and trampling hooves, bent under his horse, his hands scraping the ground as he reaches for the carcass; if he misses and gets back into the saddle, his horse will stand over the buz to keep it from other riders. It will protect him too should he fall off. Man and animal are equally trained in the rules of the game. "Training is perhaps too mechanical a noun far what we have here is an emotional bond between horse and rider that has been centuries in the making."

As early as the ninth century BC horses played a major role in the nomadic lifestyle of the people of the Steppes. To hunters and herdsmen alike the horse became not just a source of wealth but essential to life, no less used to sparse rations than food or fresh areas of grazing, the two were inseparable. The rider never left his horse, hardly ever dismounting even to sleep, mindful of the ancient saying of the Steppes: "When a Tartar has lost his horse, there is nothing left for him but to die." In 103 stunning colour illustrations Roland and Sabrina Michaud have captured much of the centuries old spirit of that inter-dependence, as well as the ritual, courage and skill that is buzkashi.

BOOK REVIEW

justice' he wins the match. Hours of attack, pursuit, scrimmage and disengagement precede that moment, and the buz will have passed through many hands before it comes to rest on the ritual spot. Neither the elite riders, known as the chopendox, nor their horses are afraid of the savage intensity of the game: mindless of anything but the pursuit of the quarry, they seem immune to pain. "A chopendox suddenly flings himself down among the quivering legs and trampling hooves, bent under his horse, his hands scraping the ground as he reaches for the carcass; if he misses and gets back into the saddle, his horse will stand over the buz to keep it from other riders. It will protect him too should he fall off. Man and animal are equally trained in the rules of the game. "Training is perhaps too mechanical a noun far what we have here is an emotional bond between horse and rider that has been centuries in the making."

To save the hungry

This is the second of a two part article published by the Journal of the World Food Programme on food aid for development and emergencies in the last 25 years.

By Bonita Brindley

Between 1965 and 1972, the growing confidence of the international community found its expression in higher pledges from an increasing number of countries, including developing countries. Contributions which were \$87 million at the start of the Programme in 1963, rose to \$320 million in 1969-70, which was 160 per cent of the target.

Just when things looked the brightest, a severe crisis arose. The world food situation changed dramatically in a very short time! Distorted weather patterns created widespread food shortages on the Indian sub-continent and in the USSR. Agricultural policies changed in major exporting countries; currency devaluations and re-evaluations occurred, and speculation switched from traditional securities to commodities. A rapid rise in oil prices led to increased costs for freight rates and agricultural inputs such as fertilisers.

The cumulative effect of all these events was devastating. The Programme was forced to reduce project allocations and some operations had to be suspended. Many projects had to be phased out. The number of beneficiaries and the size of rations had to be reduced. Besides making it difficult for the Programme to continue its work, fears arose that the crisis of 1973-74 would seriously undermine the good relationships and confidence built up so carefully over the previous ten years.

King Faisal

Just when things looked bad, King Faisal of Saudi Arabia donated \$50 million in cash to the Programme. Not only was this the second largest donation ever made, it also represented a turning point in that it came from a non-industrial developing country which was a net importer of foodstuffs. It signified a change from the idea of surplus food disposal to the better idea of a shared responsibility for feeding the poor and hungry of the world. This trend continues today with more and more countries which are not exporters of food emerging as cash donors.

In 1987, the Programme spent almost \$900 million in development and emergency assistance.

Contributions to the regular programme for the 1987-88 biennium have so far reached \$1,147 million. WFP now receives about 25 per cent of its donations in cash, which is a critical factor in improving the ability of the poorest countries to absorb food aid. One difficulty in using food aid was recognised almost immediately back in the early days of the Programme and remains serious. Even when human labour is the dominant input to a project, there are always many other costs which must be met. Finding these non-food resources — trucks, tools, storage etc. — is difficult and can severely limit or even prevent food aid from being used to its full potential.

One of the major shortcomings of food aid is its inability to reduce absolute poverty. Increasing food production only partially addresses the problem of hunger if the people in the country have no money to purchase. Therefore, one of the most important measures to reduce hunger is to generate employment and that is where food-for-work comes in. "From the very start of the Programme, it was recognised that food is an important resource in development," said WFP Executive Director, James Ingram. "What has changed is that we now know a lot more about using food aid for development and we use it on a much greater scale. Our main thrust is on food-for-work. This enables us to reach the really poor, those willing to work for food. At the same time we also address the causes of their poverty."

In India, for example, throughout the Seventies WFP supported the development of the dairy industry through "Operation Flood," the largest such project at the time, which increased milk production by 50 per cent and now benefits some 30 million people. A similar project has since begun in China and aims to double milk production in just five years.

With only seven per cent of the world's arable land, China must feed one-fifth of the world's population. In addition to the \$65 million dairy development project, WFP is involved in social and economic development projects in the north and west of China. The objective is to restore ecological balance to land degraded by population pressure. These projects include terracing, tree planting, land levelling and drainage improvement. WFP is contributing \$475 million, little in respect to the population of Chi-

na but very important in its impact.

Another example is in Bolivia, one of the poorest countries in Latin America, where WFP provided food to start "Mothers' Clubs." These are cooperatives which generate income for other commercial cooperative ventures.

The success of the clubs is evidenced by new clubs, now starting up without food aid.

Years have passed and there seems to be no imminent solution to the restricted lives of the Khmer and others, one-quarter of a million people, living in refugee camps along the Thai-Kampuchea border. Here, for six years until 1988, WFP organised food distribution, usually tied to some form of community work, road and irrigation construction, tree planting, livestock cultivation, and production of bousehold items such as mosquito nets and sleeping mats. Each month 5,000 tonnes of food was procured, delivered, stored, repacked and transported. Every day 225 tanker trucks delivered 3.5 million litres of safe drinking water. The difficult logistics were exacerbated by more than 80 camp evacuations occasioned by the ongoing hostilities.

Since 1970, WFP has assisted the government of the Arab Republic of Egypt in increasing agricultural production by sponsoring projects in land reclamation; development and resettlement at a cost of \$200 million. For example, WFP supplies food to the formerly nomadic bedouin while they establish themselves as farmers.

WFP's strongest commitment is to the millions of refugees and displaced person cut off from their usual sources of food by natural disasters or internal strife. About eight million of the world's

12 million refugees receive food from WFP.

"Whether it is the African food crisis or the influx of refugees from Afghanistan, WFP is one of the most effective instruments of the U.N. system in providing food aid. If we did not have such an agency, we would have to create one, if only for that purpose," said Sartaj Aziz, Special Assistant for Food and Agriculture to the Prime Minister of Pakistan. The Afghans in Pakistan are the largest group of refugees in the world.

Ethiopia's frequent droughts have caused massive crop failures, which have been compounded in the last decade by insecurity in the north of the country. One of the most well-known calamities was the famine of 1984-85. In addition to dealing with the hunger caused by drought in Ethiopia, WFP is helping repair the damage to arable land caused by deforestation which has greatly aggravated recent droughts. The province of Goodor alone, loses 20 tons of topsoil per hectare of cultivated land each year. WFP has already dedicated more than \$180 million to reversing this devastation of the land and is contributing a further \$76 million in food aid to the farmers who are terracing bare hillsides and planting trees for fruit and fuel, and grass for animal fodder.

These represent only a small segment of the Programme's work which includes more than a thousand development projects and hundreds of emergency and rehabilitation projects all over the developing world. Instead of despair, there is hope; instead of dying, people survive. The World Food Programme does not provide charity; instead it offers the dignity of work and the promise of a brighter future.



Refugees and victims of drought and earthquakes are amongst those who have benefitted from WFP emergency assistance.



Projects to clear drainage ditches and canals are vital, particularly in countries prone to flooding.

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Maghreb may be grand alliance among African economic groups

NAIROBI (R) — With rich natural resources, a proposed Arab Maghreb union could become a "grand alliance" among Africa's regional economic blocs.

Existing African partnerships range from a bilateral pact for duty free trade between Zimbabwe and Botswana to a 10-nation economic community in West Africa.

None has the potential economic muscle of the Maghreb union which would link Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia in a form of common market of 62 million people.

Their leaders meet in Marrakesh Wednesday to try to transform a blueprint for unity into reality.

Proponents portray regional integration in Africa, the poorest continent, as a way to avoid depending on the West.

Few of Africa's many devastated countries have widely developed local markets or industry and most rely heavily on exports of crops and minerals.

The risks were summed up last year by Jonathan Frimpong-Ansah, a former Ghanaian central bank governor.

"Indeed there are emerging views that excessively outward trade policies by individual nations, not buttressed by viable regional economic integration, could return African countries to

a new and worse form of economic dependency and paternalistic colonialism," he said.

He was speaking shortly before a landmark summit of the five Maghreb leaders last June which opened the way for the proposed North African union.

But the track record of African partnerships is patchy.

The East African Community, formed in 1968 by Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda, broke up nine years later when the former British-ruled territories sealed borders and confiscated aircraft, locomotives, ships and lorries amid unresolved political and budget rows.

The 16-nation Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) was supposed to evolve into something like the European Community. But the dream remains elusive.

"Progress has been painfully slow as year after year new target dates are set and we move from the problem to what is in danger of becoming the unattainable," Gambian President Dawda Jawara said last June.

Rival sub-regional groupings, reflecting West Africa's balkanisation into small states and one

giant, Nigeria, abound.

Less than five per cent of members' recorded trade is within the community. More than five years after leaders agreed to create a single monetary zone, seven countries are tied to the CFA franc. Others muddle on with unconvertible currencies.

Fourteen countries belong to a franc zone — 12 former French colonies in West and Central Africa plus Spanish-speaking equatorial Guinea and the Indian Ocean archipelago of Comoros.

Members use the same currency, the CFA franc, which is pegged to the French franc and guaranteed by the Bank of France.

Another African grouping is the 15-member Preferential Trade Area of Eastern and Southern Africa founded in 1981. It, too, has suffered slippage in a timetable for integration and the removal of all tariff barriers to regional trade by the year 2000. Twelve members missed a November deadline for a 10 per cent cut in tariffs.

Tanzanian President Ali Hassan Mwinyi spoke at a summit in December of progress towards a common market from Swaziland to Ethiopia. But he noted: "We realise that a great deal more remains to be done before we can achieve our ultimate goal of economic integration."

Yet another African regional grouping is the nine-nation Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC).

At a recent meeting with aid donors it won praise for its successes in the eight years since it was set up to reduce members' reliance on South Africa.

But with annual per capita income varying from \$160 in Malawi to \$840 in Botswana, this bloc like others south of the Sahara has little economic or financial weight.

Supporters of the Maghreb alliance say it will weld different but complementary economies into a union equipped to meet the challenges of the 1990s, including the creation of a single European Community market.

Libya and Algeria have oil and gas but are short of consumer goods and have neglected agriculture. Morocco has a virtual monopoly in phosphates and produces fruit and vegetables. Mauritania has iron and other minerals and rich rising grounds. Tunisia has manufacturing industry and banks.

But diplomats say much depends on how members can bury a decade of rivalry between Algeria and Morocco and between Libya and Tunisia that preceded last June's summit.

Kuwait, USSR discuss joint oil projects

KUWAIT (R) — Oil ministers of the Soviet Union, the world's biggest oil producer, and Kuwait, a key member of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), held talks on oil cooperation Monday, officials said.

Oil Industry Minister Vasily Dinkov, on the first visit to the oil-rich Arabian Peninsula by a Soviet oil minister, said on arrival Sunday his discussions would cover the exchange of oil technology and expertise.

The talks were also expected to include the exchange of refined products and the setting up of joint ventures, officials said.

Kuwaiti Oil Minister Ali Al Khalifa Al Sabah said efforts by OPEC and non-OPEC states to cooperate in raising world oil prices were not discussed.

Kuwait is one of six OPEC states delegated by the group last November to pursue contacts with independent producers.

Dinkov said Sunday Moscow was ready to cooperate with OPEC to help to stabilise the world oil market and would send an observer to a meeting in London, later this month, of experts from seven non-OPEC producers.

These talks will discuss possible joint moves by OPEC and non-OPEC producers aimed at raising oil prices to OPEC's target of \$18 a barrel from around \$15 now.

Bush opens budget sales drive

MANCHESTER, New Hampshire (Agencies) — President Bush said "thank you, New Hampshire" Monday for helping to put him in the White House as he opened a drive to rally public support for his budget.

In a speech to business and civic leaders in the New England state, Bush said his \$1.16 trillion spending blueprint would keep America moving in the right direction.

"This budget plan represents a commitment to meet our national priorities and at the same time keep faith with our promise to the American people of no new taxes," he said.

Bush said there were "some areas in which we would all like to spend more" but added that it was first necessary to get the government's fiscal house in order and bring the deficit down.

His plan would trim federal red ink to \$91 billion in the 1990 budget year beginning Oct. 1 — well below the \$100 billion ceiling set by the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings deficit control law.

"It is a budget plan that will

work, but not with business as usual," he said. "It will require a partnership with the Congress. My team and I are prepared to work with the Congress, to negotiate with the leadership in good faith, to work day and night — if that's what it takes — to meet budget targets and produce a budget on time."

President Bush is asking Congress to enact hundreds of millions of dollars in new tax breaks aimed at stimulating the struggling oil and gas industry and easing the country's growing dependence on oil imports.

"Sufficient energy supplies at reasonable prices are vital to the economic well-being of this country and to the preservation of our national security," Bush said last week.

He called for full decontrol of natural gas, a reexamination of off-shore oil drilling projects in several environmentally sensitive areas, and four separate tax incentives aimed at finding new oil and gas fields and reclaiming old ones.

He said tax incentives "can

give the domestic oil and gas industry the necessary stimulus," particularly to the small producers "who are so vital to our energy security. Historically, independent producers have drilled a majority of America's exploratory wells."

Bush, however, called an oil import fee protectionist and said it amounts to a tax increase on all energy users.

His four tax incentives would encourage exploration of new oil and gas fields and reclamation of old fields, and would be phased out if the price of oil reaches \$21 a barrel.

Charles Dibona, president of the American Petroleum Institute, called the tax incentives "a step in the right direction. But they alone cannot stem the serious decline in domestic petroleum production."

Other steps are required, including opening to exploration promising federal lands on shore in Alaska and off shore in California and Florida, he said.

Bush's budget would allow new drilling in selected offshore areas and in the Alaska wildlife refuge.

EC struggles over new tax plans

BRUSSELS (R) — European Community (EC) finance ministers began talks Monday aimed at overhauling EC policy on taxing investment income in member states income and on tax evasion.

A French-backed plan put up last week by the European Commission for an EC-wide withholding tax of 15 per cent on most forms of income from investment faced objections from Britain, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and West Germany.

Ministers declined to comment on their positions as they arrived for the talks, but statements after the proposals were published last Wednesday pointed to a stormy debate.

"Our position is well known," Treasury Minister Jacques Poos of Luxembourg told reporters. "I'll give you our side of the story after the meeting," he added.

Last week he said too much was at stake for his country to accept the proposals aimed at limiting tax evasion once exchange controls were lifted Community-wide.

Like all tax matters, the proposals must be adopted unanimously by member states before they can become law.

Without a tax on investment income, the Commission argues, investors would simply move money to countries where they could escape paying taxes once EC exchange controls are abolished.

Even though it could block the proposals on its own, Luxembourg firmly counts on British support.

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has already said that any such move "would be a way of alienating capital from this country and also from Europe and sending it overseas."

Banking secrecy is also seen threatened by an accompanying proposal that would provide for closer cooperation between national tax authorities in cases of suspected tax evasion.

Luxembourg says the proposals threaten a leading sector of its economy, the tiny duchy where the penal code does not cover tax evasion has attracted more than 120 banks with a favourable tax system and tight banking secrecy.

West Germany favours a withholding tax, but of only 10 per cent like one which it introduced itself at the start of 1989.

The Netherlands on the other hand wants more stringent measures, demanding that banks be made to report all interest payments to clients automatically to the tax authorities.

A decision to remove the last restrictions on free movement of capital over the next few years was taken last summer and is an important step in creating a single EC market after 1992.

France, which taxes investment income heavily, insisted at the time that there must also be accompanying tax measures.

Jobless rate drops

Meanwhile, the unemployment rate in the EC fell in December to a 5½-year low, official figures published Monday showed.

The EC's statistical office Eurostat said the seasonally adjusted rate fell to 10 per cent for the first time since the summer of 1983 and was down from 10.1 per cent in November.

The 12-nation Community's jobless rate had been falling steadily since peaking at 11 per cent in the autumn of 1984.

"I feel that we are on the right track," said Henning Christ-

ophersen, the EC commissioner for economic affairs.

"It is, however, still an unacceptable situation both from a human and an economic point of view that 15.5 million citizens... are without a job," he said in a statement.

Christophersen noted an encouraging cut in youth unemployment, with the average rate for those under 25 dropping to 20.2 per cent last year compared with 24.1 per cent in 1984.

Iran plans to boost oil output capacity

NICOSIA (R) — Iran plans to raise its oil production capacity to 4.0 million barrels per day (b/d) from 3.5 million within a year, the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) said Monday.

It quoted Iranian Oil Minister Gholamreza Aghazadeh saying in an interview with MEES in Tehran: "We have the capacity to produce about 3.5 million b/d. But we expect to raise this capacity to 4.0 million b/d within about one year."

"But baving this production capacity does not mean that we would ever violate our OPEC production quota in any way," Aghazadeh was quoted as saying.

He said Iran would expect to see its 2.640 million b/d quota laid down by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) last November to be increased in future as demand for OPEC oil grows.

Aghazadeh said Iran's current output was within its quota.

The Iranian oil minister said the 140,000 b/d capacity first phase reconstruction of Abadan refinery, which was the world's biggest with 635,000 b/d capacity before it was damaged during the eight-year-long war with Iraq, will be completed next month.

Major cities groan under commuter congestion

LONDON (R) — It can take longer to cross modern London by car than it did by horse and carriage a century ago.

Some New York commuters are spending \$200 a month on fares and six hours each day travelling. Japan is offering long distance "bullet train" commuters tax breaks on their fares.

The inability of some modern cities to provide adequate transport for the millions who work in them poses an economic challenge for the 1990s.

Without action now, London risks losing its pre-eminence as the financial and business centre of Europe," says John Banham, chairman of the Confederation of British Industry.

Worldwide, huge sums will be spent on transport. Firms may have to spend money moving outside city centres, subsidising fares or buying more computers so people can work at home.

Or they may just go to places like Paris or Frankfurt which can apparently handle their transport problem.

Reuter correspondents in eight leading business centres around the globe took a look at the commuters' plight.

New York

In New York, where nearly 3.5 million people stream daily into Manhattan, some have dreamed up new ways of avoiding the crowds. Wealthy executives from neighbouring New Jersey formed a helicopter-pool to fly in.

A ferry company, Direct Line, last year proposed to moor floating parking lots on the Hudson river. New Jersey commuters could drive onto these lots, park and then take a ferry to work.

Housing close to Manhattan has become so expensive that many face a three-hour bus ride to get to work.

London

In London, the world's oldest underground rail network is groaning under the daily strain of three million commuters while traffic jams last more than half the working day.

"We are now a first world city with Third World standards," said Professor Peter Hall of Reading University.

Many professionals have moved out to smaller cities where they earn less but enjoy a better quality of life.

More than half businesses have recruiting problems, said economist Paul Mitchell. Many must offer up to £3,000 (\$5,300) a year extra pay.

"Many businesses are worried that France and Germany have invested more than Britain in planning," said David Senior, deputy director of the London Chambers of Commerce.

Tokyo

Tokyo commuters ensure some of the most crowded trains and

longest rides of any. And a dramatic rise in land values has forced people to travel further and spend more on commuting.

A one-way train fare of more than 1,000 yen (\$8) is common while the transport ministry reckons that some 100,000 people commute from places more than 100 kilometres away.

The government and big firms are now encouraging people to live way outside Tokyo and commute by Shinkansen "bullet train."

A transport ministry official said new tax breaks would be introduced from April 1 for people spending up to 50,000 yen (\$390) a month on fares.

"Some businessmen pay 100,000 yen (\$800) per month for commuting by Shinkansen trains," the official said. "I have not heard of any company paying for the whole expense but some companies pay a half."

Zurich

Zurich shares some of London's worries.

A survey of banks, insurance and financial firms showed many faced severe problems over the next few years because of parking space.

The survey found that 60 per cent of employees commute to

work from outside the city, many by car. But the council wants to reduce parking spaces and cut private car use by 30 per cent.

Some firms have moved to less crowded areas, which may risk Zurich's expansion as a financial centre — "personal contact cannot be replaced so quickly by the telefax and telephone," said Markus Schildknecht, the survey's author.

Paris

Paris, however, looks set to enter the 1990s with a big advantage. A fast, efficient transport system is led by the RER suburban express railway which carries 600,000 people a day.

"Not many other European capitals have such developed public transport systems as Paris," said Roger Dubreuil, traffic consultant for the police.

A commission under Mayor Jacques Chirac met in 1987 to consider improving the network and one idea was for underground freeways. But it was decided no changes were needed.

Traffic has grown over the last 20 years but one-way systems and ring-roads have helped keep it flowing.

Frankfurt

Some 300,000 people commute

Hong Kong

In Hong Kong commuters often spend an hour-and-a-half travelling in. An average journey from the outlying new towns, built in the early 1970s, can cost about \$1 each way. A clerk makes about \$350 a month.

The mass transit railway, Hong Kong's underground, carries 80,000 people an hour in one direction during the morning rush. Some go three stops the wrong way just to be able to get on.

Johannesburg

In Johannesburg most public transport is segregated. Whites tend to avoid sketchy bus services and drive their own cars to work. Road links with white suburbs are direct and efficient.

For other races commuting is a constant battle against long distances, rising fares and cramped conditions.

Foreign traders flock to Vietnam

HO CHI MINH CITY, Vietnam (R) — It's hard to get a hotel room in Ho Chi Minh City these days, and even harder to get a seat on the few flights in and out of the airport.

Western oilmen, South Korean entrepreneurs, Japanese refrigerator makers and Thai timber merchants fill the cane chairs on the

terrace of the Rex Hotel and sip imported lager.

They swap notes, picking their way through the bureaucracy and reckoning potential profits as a Vietnamese reform programme shows signs of life after two years of talk about it.

Allowing the breeze of world trade and investment to blow through the ailing socialist economy is proving a slow process, and caution is the watchword for both sides.

"Vietnam is a patient that needs intensive care," said a

European ambassador who has watched the old communist chiefs, urged on by young pragmatists, feel their way from orthodox Marxism to an accommodation with foreign capitalism.

"The country needs a bit of blood — an injection of capital," he added.

With production, productivity, employment and living standards declining, the only growth has been in population, more than 65 million and growing by a million a year.

The drive to open up opportu-

nities for hard currency trade and investment coincides with political changes, including peace efforts in Kampuchea that would end Vietnam's ostracism by Western governments.

The Vietnamese government says it has concluded 35 deals with overseas companies since a liberal foreign investment law was passed a year ago.

"These were not large projects," said Dinh Phu Dinh, deputy minister for foreign economic relations. "The companies say they want to invest in projects where they can quickly regain their investment."

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Sunday, February 26:

8:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.: Individual sessions at the American Center, 3rd Circle.

1:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m.: Individual sessions in the Consular Section, American Embassy.

Monday, February 27:

8:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.: Individual sessions at the American Center, 3rd Circle.

7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.: Taxpayers' seminar at the American Center, 3rd Circle.

Tuesday, February 28:

8:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.: Individual sessions at the American Center, 3rd Circle.

1:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m.: Individual sessions in the Consular Section, American Embassy.

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Monday, Feb. 13, 1989
Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell		
U.S. dollar	538.0	542.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	418.5 423.3
Pound Sterling	940.4	949.6	Dutch guilder	254.5 257.2
Deutschemark	287.3	290.5	Swedish crown	84.7 85.5
Swiss franc	337.8	341.5	Italian lira (for 100)	39.4 39.8
French franc	84.5	85.2	Belgian franc (for 100)	137.1 138.6

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

		U.S. dollar
One Sterling	1.7495/7505	
One U.S. dollar	1.1840/50	Canadian dollar
	1.8695/8702	Deutschemark
	2.1100/10	Dutch guilders
	1.5895/5905	Swiss francs
	39.15/20	Belgian francs
	6.3580/3630	French francs
	1363/1364	Italian lire
	128.40/50	Japanese yen
	6.3435/85	Swedish crowns
	6.7370/7420	Norwegian crowns
	7.2690/2740	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	386.10/386.60	U.S. dollars

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College Basketball Roundup

NEW YORK (AP) — Billy Tubbs thinks highly of the Arizona basketball team — but only as a reflection of his Oklahoma Sooners' glory.

"Any team that can come in here and play us that close has got to be a final four team," Tubbs said of Arizona following Sunday's 82-80 Oklahoma victory.

The victory also earned Oklahoma the top spot in the Associated Press poll — the fifth time in as many weeks that the lead has changed.

Arizona, Duke, Illinois and Oklahoma have been bounced from No. 1 in four consecutive weeks. For three straight weeks, the nation's three highest ranked teams have each lost.

In other games Sunday, UCLA beat No. 4 Louisville 77-75, No. 6 North Carolina defeated Virginia 85-67, No. 13 Indiana got past Purdue 64-62, No. 19 Nevada-Las Vegas downed No. 17 North Carolina State 79-70 and No. 18 Stanford beat Washington 82-74 in overtime.

Saturday, Pittsburgh stopped No. 2 Georgetown 79-74, No. 3 Missouri beat Kansas 93-80, No. 7 Illinois topped Northwestern 86-69, Wisconsin surprised No. 8 Iowa 65-54, No. 9 Syracuse trounced St. John's 92-69, Minnesota tumbled No. 10 Michigan 88-80, No. 11 Seton Hall defeated Villanova 83-77, No. 14 Duke routed Maryland 86-60, No. 15 West Virginia beat Penn State 100-67, No. 16 Ohio State held off Michigan State 81-75, and No. 20 Georgia Tech topped Wake Forest 75-70.

Oklahoma, 21-3, won its 27th straight home game. That includes a 112-105 victory over third-ranked Missouri earlier in the week. This week the Sooners play at Kansas and Colorado.

Arizona slipped to 18-3. Last season, Oklahoma beat the Wildcats 86-78 in the NCAA semifinals.

Sean Elliott, who scored 26 points for the Wildcats, thinks so. "When we play Arizona basketball, we're as good as any team in the nation, if not better," he said. "Obviously you want to win, but we earned some respect for our team and our conference."

UCLA 77, No. 4 Louisville 75

Louisville's Pervis Ellison was called for goaltending with one second left as UCLA rallied to beat the visiting Cardinals.

No. 6 North Carolina 85, Virginia 67

Steve Bucknall scored 19 points and North Carolina averaged a 106-83 loss at Virginia last month. The Tar Heels, 19-5 and 6-3 in the Atlantic Coast Conference, made eight of its first 11 shots and won easily.

No. 13 Indiana 64, Purdue 62

Jay Edwards made an 18-foot jump shot with four seconds left, capping Indiana's rally from an 11-point deficit in the second half.

No. 19 Nev.-Las Vegas 89, No. 17 N. Carolina St. 80

David Butler scored 21 points, including 15 in the first half when UNLV took control. The Runnin' Rebels raced to a 26-9

lead and were ahead 49-34 at halftime.

No. 18 Stanford 82, Washington 74

Todd Licht scored 19 points, including eight in overtime, as Stanford got past visiting Washington. The Cardinal is 19-5 and 10-3 in the Pacific-10.

Pittsburgh 79, No. 2 Georgetown 74

Jason Matthews and Rod Brooklin led Pitt's rally from a 66-56 deficit in the final 10 minutes. Matthews, who finished with 24 points, and Brooklin each scored six during a 12-0 spurt that put the Panthers ahead 68-66.

No. 3 Missouri 93, Kansas 80

Byron Irvin scored 22 points and assistant coach Rich Daly guided Missouri to its first victory since coach Norm Stewart was hospitalized last Thursday with a bleeding ulcer.

No. 7 Illinois 86, Northwestern 69

Marcus Liberty scored 20 points for Illinois, which reached the 20-victory mark for the seventh straight season.

Wisconsin 65, No. 8 Iowa 54

Trent Jackson scored 24 points and Wisconsin held Iowa to its lowest total this season. Wisconsin, 13-7 and 5-6 in the Big Ten, led the entire second half.

No. 9 Syracuse 92, St. John's 69

Stephen Thompson scored 19 points and Syracuse got revenge for a loss earlier this season to St. John's.

Minnesota 88, No. 10 Michigan 80

Minnesota beat a ranked team for the fourth straight time at home. Willie Burton scored 27 points as the Gophers improved to 14-7 and 6-3 in the Big Ten.

Borg is optimistic about his future

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Calling rumors that he tried to commit suicide "ridiculous," five-time Wimbledon champion Bjorn Borg expressed optimism about his future.

Borg was hospitalized in Italy last week and had his stomach pumped. The incident first was reported as a possible suicide attempt.

"I'm fine. I'm well off. I have made money on tennis... there is really no reason for me to think about suicide," Borg said in an article in the newspaper Expressen.

He said he fell sick after eating frozen fish at his fiancée Loredana Berre's Milan apartment.

In an attempt to fall asleep despite the nausea, he took "a few" sleeping tablets.

"If you take 60 sleeping pills, you don't walk out of the hospital a couple of hours later. That's ridiculous," Borg said, speaking at his parents' home at Cap Ferrat, Monaco.

Borg, 33, also said he planned to play tennis with American President George Bush at the White House the first week in May.

In explaining why he quit playing tennis in 1983 at the top of his career, he said life had become "empty and monotonous."

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1989

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

— As Charted By The Carroll Righter Astrological Foundation.

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Win the acceptance of other people with a friendly attitude. A negative air prevails when some people try to influence others without their best interests in mind.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Mingle with those who are upbeat and so your wavelength. Your energy and enthusiasm are high. Make new social contacts.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) This day can be exhausting unless you remain organized. Make a priority list so as not to overlook an important matter.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Avoid negative criticism and arguments that leave an unfavorable impression. Use your communicative skills wisely.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Are your complaints justified? You may be challenged by others when you set out emotions without tact.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) You can act to advantage today if you take the initiative. It may be difficult to arouse yourself to action. You may prefer relaxing activities.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 23) This is the time to make a good impression on a VIP who has you in sight for advancement. Your feelings for others are sincere.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 23) There is an element of sacrifice in the way you let others intrude on your life. It is impossible for you to solve everyone's problems.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Current affairs are trivial, take up valuable time, lead nowhere and can have you bogged down. Stay with objectives that have importance.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You have been driving yourself harder than usual. Understand your limitations. Confide in a trusted friend who can help you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Concern yourself with your own personal goals. Inner tension is created when you neglect your own potential and talents.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) You will give full effort today in whatever you undertake. Recognition comes when you don't expect it. Stay on the present course.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Work behind the scenes and develop new skills that will lead to job success. Patience will be required.

THE Daily Crossword

by Martha J. Oa Whit

ACROSS

- 1 Ancient Briton
- 6 Village square
- 10 LeSage's hero
- 14 Hab. month
- 15 Watering holes
- 16 Track
- 17 Complete victory
- 19 "The King"
- 20 Lend's game
- 21 Risen
- 23 Pung
- 25 No fls. — or buta
- 26 Form
- 28 Epoch
- 32 Sedness
- 35 Son of Jacob
- 38 Residences
- 39 A Gerstwin
- 38 Blind as —
- 40 Toll
- 41 Pierre's state: abbr.
- 42 Congulate
- 43 Trevisi
- 44 Fountain
- 45 List of candidates
- 47 Chemical anding
- 48 Goe up
- 49 Tidings
- 51 Eschew
- 53 Wine bottle
- 57 "went to" —
- 61 Chert
- 62 Crushes
- 64 Phrase of understanding
- 65 Trevels
- 66 Entranced
- 67 Good
- 68 Run off to
- 69 Greta Oren
- 69 Meeting: abbr.

DOWN

- 1 Treaty
- 2 Not working
- 3 City near La Have
- 4 Send
- 5 Sheriff's helpers
- 6 "This — is a —" (Michens)
- 7 Cruising
- 8 Bazzards
- 9 Animal org.
- 10 Actor Marlon
- 11 Great victories
- 12 Helper
- 13 Moved smoothly
- 14 Cleopatra's river
- 22 Pass catches at times
- 24 Argue
- 25 Streamers
- 27 President
- 28 Snow masses in motion
- 30 Bird
- 31 Workshops
- 33 Declaim
- 34 Debauchess
- 36 — mode
- 37 Before
- 41 Fishing lures
- 43 Stitche
- 46 Ribs
- 48 Move last
- 50 Bourgeois
- 52 Part of a ship
- 53 Bill
- 54 Facility
- 56 Iniquitous
- 58 Renovate
- 59 Wings
- 60 Gremlins
- 60 WWII craft
- 63 Congressman: abbr.

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

1. Gland
2. Petio
3. Nimble
4. Crowsy
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95. Oroway
96. Crowsy
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98. Crowsy
99. Oroway
100. Crowsy

Inter suffers defeat as Napoli poses for challenge

MILAN (R) — Internazionale Milan's first league defeat of the season at the weekend opened up the race for the Italian soccer championship and left them only one point ahead of challengers Napoli, who had to come from behind to win.

In the space of 28 minutes, Inter slipped from a 3-2 lead over Fiorentina to a 4-3 defeat, while Napoli climbed back from a goal down at home to Como to win 3-2.

Inter now have 28 points from 17 matches against Napoli's 27. "Something went wrong and we lost our concentration. But a touch of humiliation can only do us good," Inter defender Riccardo Ferri said.

It was Inter's second defeat of the season by Fiorentina, who are lying 10 points behind them. In September the Florence club eliminated them from the Italian cup, also by 4-3.

Napoli were lucky to scrape through against Como and there was bad news for them afterwards.

Gonzalez' two goals.

The Spanish press were unanimous in their praise for the West German but it was the performance of the team as a whole that delighted coach Leo Beenhakker.

"It wasn't just Schuster. The whole team were playing quite a lot better than they have done in the past few matches. We had a lot of defensive errors, but the attack was very good, very fast."

Barcelona are one point behind having played one game more, but are the only side with a realistic chance of overhauling Real and they kept their chances alive with 2-0 win over last-placed Elche.

But it was dull in comparison and even coach Johan Cruyff admitted "it wasn't a very exciting game."

Dutch First Division leaders Ajax maintained their three-point lead over PSV but both teams came in for criticism after lackluster draws.

Ajax, missing key striker Stefan Petterson and defender Dan-

ny Blind through injury, were held to a goalless draw by visiting Pec Zwolle.

PSV, also weakened by the absence of Berry Van Aerle because of illness and Czechoslovak Josef Chovanec, still prevented from making his debut because of injury, could manage no more than a 1-1 draw away to Volendam.

In France, Marseille strengthened their title challenge and have a chance to take the lead next Saturday.

They dispatched Strasbourg 3-1 while league leaders Paris Saint-Germain struggled to a scoreless draw at home to middle of the table Toulon.

Next weekend Marseille should pick up maximum points against low-lying Laval while Paris Saint-Germain can expect a much tougher time against their hosts, third-placed Auxerre. A win for Marseille and defeat for the Paris club would put the former into first place on goal difference.

Soccer passion runs high in S. Arabia

RIYADH (AP) — Soccer passion is high across Saudi Arabia as the nation counts down to the fifth world youth soccer cup tournament opening here Thursday.

Sixteen teams are coming from the Soviet Union, the United States, East Germany, Czechoslovakia, Brazil, Argentina, Colombia, Costa Rica, Mali, Nigeria, Portugal, Spain, Norway, Saudi Arabia and two Arab countries — Syria and Iraq.

The final is scheduled for March 3 in Riyadh.

The preliminary games will be in four major cities — Riyadh, Jeddah on the Red Sea, a mountainous resort on the western side of the kingdom called Taif and Dammam on the eastern gulf coast.

Political note

He also introduced a political note to the games by announcing that half the price of each ticket — one riyal or about 25 cents — would aid the Muslim rebels fighting Afghanistan's Soviet-backed government. Other charities also will benefit from ticket sales, he said.

The championship is a major event in the kingdom, the prince said at a press conference. It is "up to the youth of the kingdom

to gain maximum benefit from this tournament," he said.

Abdul-Fattah Nazer, in charge of the local committee of Jeddah, said everybody was trying to make the event "the best organized youth world cup."

The cities have been decked with banners and hunting and there is a general air of festivity. The Oberoi hotel in Dammam erected a tent with seating arrangements on the floor for the teams to experience traditional Arab eating, although a varied menu is available.

The mayor of Jeddah, Khaled Abdul-Ghani, will host a lunch in honor of the participating teams in his city. The lunch will be held in the open desert, a few kilometers away from the city, where the guest will have a taste

of bedouin living, complete with camels and horses to ride.

The teams have been divided into four groups for the preliminary round. They are:

Group A — Saudi Arabia, Nigeria, Portugal and Czechoslovakia — at the King Fahd International Stadium in Riyadh, with a capacity of 70,000.

Group B — Soviet Union, Syria, Costa Rica and Colombia. In Dammam at the main Prince Saud Ibn Jalawi Stadium, capacity 25,000.

Group C — United States, Brazil, Mali and East Germany, at Jeddah's Youth Welfare Stadium, with a capacity of 35,000.

Group D — Argentina, Norway, Iraq and Spain at Taif's King Fahd Sport City ground, capacity 25,000.

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6,750 File

25,000 25,000

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Peanuts

I BOUGHT THIS VALENTINE CANDY FOR THE LITTLE RED HAIR GIRL, BUT I WAS TOO SHY TO GIVE IT TO HER...

I'D GIVE IT TO YOU, BUT CHOCOLATE ISN'T GOOD FOR DOGS...

I COULD JUST PICK OUT THE CARAMELS...

Mutt'n' Jeff

CICERO, COME DOWN OUT OF THAT TREE THIS INSTANT!

DO YOU HEAR ME? COME DOWN AND BE QUICK ABOUT IT!

HELLO, MRS. MUTT—I'M NOT CICERO!

Andy Capp

THANKS PET—I'LL PAY YOU BACK

GIMME A KISS, THEN

—AGAIN—

AGAIN?!

ANOTHER RISE IN THE INTEREST RATE

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"You picked up your clothes without being told — we must have entered the Twilight Zone!"

JUMBLE.

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

LOGUM

PUJEL

GREDIB

ONCOMM

Look at that idiot

IF A PEDESTRIAN IS PRONE TO BE CARELESS HE MIGHT END UP THIS WAY.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: _____

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: GLAND PETIO NIMBLE CROWSY Answer: What a person who's always kicking seldom has—A LEG TO STAND ON

Sri Lanka forces on full alert after violence flare-up

COLOMBO (R) — Security forces on full alert for Sri Lanka's first general election since 1977 killed four rebels Monday as they fled after setting fire to a bus northwest of the capital.

Rebels ordered passengers out of two other buses before setting them ablaze near the spot where the four suspected members of the leftist People's Liberation Front (JVP) were shot dead by soldiers at Kurunegala, 90 kilometres northwest of Colombo.

Police said about 40,000 police and troops were deployed across the Indian Ocean island as the full security alert took effect Monday after four weeks of campaigning in which 13 candidates and more than 300 political activists were killed.

President Ranasinghe Premadasa's United National Party (UNP), which has ruled the is-

land for the past 11 years blames the JVP, led by fiery orator Rohana Wijeweera, for most of the killings.

Wijeweera and his hard core Sinhalese supporters, believed to number between 2,500 and 3,000, remain underground even though the government last May lifted a ban on the party imposed in 1983. The JVP, with its stronghold in the mainly Sinhalese south, opposes an agreement with India which brought some 45,000 Indian troops to the island to end a Tamil guerrilla campaign for a separate homeland in the north and east.

It described Wednesday's election as a fraud and threatened

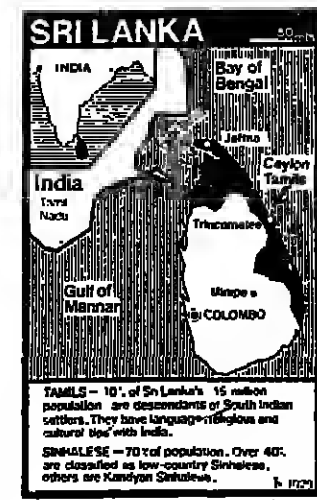
voters and election officials with death if they disregarded a call to boycott the poll.

"Vote and face death," one poster proclaimed. Canvassing ended Sunday night with bomb attacks on meetings within kilometres of Colombo which injured about 30 people.

The UNP is favoured to be returned with a slight majority in the 225-seat parliament. Its main challenger is the Freedom Party of former Prime Minister Sirima Bandaranaike.

Bandaranaike, who lost to Premadasa in the December presidential election, said continued violence meant a low turnout which would benefit the UNP.

About 9.4 million people are eligible to vote under a proportional representation system to choose from 1,393 candidates nominated by nine political par-



TABLES — 10% of Sri Lanka's 15 million population are descendants of South Indian settlers. They have linguistic, religious and cultural ties with India.

SINHALESE — 70% of population. Over 40% are classified as low-caste Sinhalese, others are Jaffna Tamils.

Source: Sri Lanka Census, 1980.

ties and some independent groups.

Tamil militants are among candidates in the north and east, though the powerful Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam also warned officials and voters to boycott the election.

UNP General Secretary Ranjan Wijeratne had heated exchanges Monday with foreign observers invited to monitor the election, one of the observers said. The observer said Wijeratne accused the monitoring team of interfering in the country's internal affairs.

S. Korea farmers clash with police over U.S. pressure

SEOUL (R) — South Korean riot police fought running battles with thousands of club-wielding anti-American demonstrators trying to storm the parliament building in Seoul Monday, witnesses said.

The rioters were among more than 15,000 farmers and dissidents who gathered outside the National Assembly to protest U.S. trade pressures, the presence of American troops on the peninsula, and President Bush's planned visit to Seoul Feb. 27.

Club-wielding rioters hurled rocks and petrol bombs. Police opened fire with volleys of tear gas.

A pitched battle raged for more than two hours during which at least five cars and a van owned by a state-run television

company were set on fire. There were no immediate reports of serious injuries or arrests.

The battle broke out as Prime Minister Kang Yong-Hoon was delivering a speech to parliament on national policies.

Kang said the government would deal toughly with "those who break laws and disrupt social stability taking advantage of democratisation."

During the rally, protesters marched to the beat of brass gongs and drums, waving banners and shouting slogans calling on Washington to stop trying to force Seoul to open its markets to U.S. goods.

Anti-American sentiment has grown recently in South Korea

where many people, particularly farmers, believe multiple U.S. trade pressures threaten their livelihood.

"Immediately scrap plans for Bush's visit," said one banner. The U.S. president is due to make a brief stopover in Seoul after attending Emperor Hirohito's funeral in Tokyo Feb. 24 and visiting China.

"Drive out U.S. forces" shouted demonstrators, who called on the Seoul government to spend less money on the armed forces and more on helping farmers.

They also demanded cancellation of the "team spirit" joint U.S.-South Korean manoeuvres, the largest military exercise in the non-communist world.

Soviets at U.S. embassy outnumbered Americans

NEW YORK (R) — More Soviet informants worked at the spy-riddled U.S. embassy in Moscow than U.S. citizens, according to excerpts from a new book on the 1987 marine spy scandal released Sunday.

"The KGB had 206 Soviet informants working in the U.S. embassy, outnumbering the Americans," Ronald Kessler wrote in a segment of "Moscow Station" published in Time magazine.

Kessler, a former Washington Post reporter who explored the case of U.S. marines accused of allowing KGB spies into the embassy communications centre,

said the infiltration began when the embassy started using Soviet nationals for almost all domestic and clerical work.

One marine guard was sentenced to 30 years in jail after he confessed to giving U.S. secrets to the Soviets while another confessed to being a spy but then recanted.

Kessler said in the book that the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and the National Security Affairs (NSA) agency covered up the fact, even from the State Department, that the embassy was riddled with listening devices.

By 1987, the KGB, the Soviet

intelligence agency, had turned the embassy's communications department into "a gigantic listening device," Kessler said security sources told him.

He said the NSA discovered after shipping the embassy's communications network home in 1987 that the power lines and key circuit boards had been replaced, allowing the KGB to divert coded signals and decipher messages used by U.S. embassies throughout the world.

Kessler wrote that nearly all the 25 Soviet citizens he has said were executed for working with the CIA were innocent.

'Satanic Verses' author upset at reaction to book

LONDON (R) — Author Salman Rushdie, whose novel "Satanic Verses" is at the centre of global protests by Muslims, was quoted as saying Monday he was disturbed about the deaths of five Pakistanis during a demonstration against his book.

Rushdie was quoted in Britain's Guardian newspaper as saying he was "very upset" about the deaths Sunday and feared that leaders of Pakistan's religious parties were whipping up emotion.

"The thing that is most disturbing is that they are talking about a book that doesn't exist," he said. "The book that is worth killing people for and burning flags for is not the book that I wrote."

He added: "The people who

demonstrated in Pakistan and who were killed haven't actually read the book because it isn't on sale there."

Rushdie, who was born into a Bombay Muslim family and now lives in London, has maintained that the book is a fictional parable about good and evil and was not meant to be anti-religious.

Islamic fundamentalists have accused him of blasphemy for his treatment of the Prophet Muhammad. The book has been banned in South Africa, India, Pakistan and Egypt.

Protesters have mostly taken issue with a dream sequence which raises the question of humanity of a prophet named Mabound in the face of temptation.

The deaths in Islamabad Sunday occurred when police clashed with protesters outside the U.S. Cultural Centre demanding the banning of the book in the United States. The government put the number of injured at 127.

Last month, Muslims in the northern England city of Bradford publicly burned a copy of the book, prompting booksellers W.H. Smith to remove their display copy.

In New York City, an attorney for Viking Penguin in the United States, Martin Garbus, said Sunday: "Viking intends to continue to publish the book. Insofar as the U.S. is concerned, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and local police have been advised. It doesn't mean there will be any such incident in the United States."

North trial secrets deal proposed

WASHINGTON (R) — The Iran-contra special prosecutor and the Bush administration filed a motion Sunday proposing a compromise on the national security secrets that former White House aide Oliver North can use at his trial.

The motion was filed hours after Chief Justice William Rehnquist delayed the trial to give the U.S. Supreme Court time to review administration demands that tighter controls be placed on the secrets that North can introduce as evidence.

The motion must be approved by the trial judge. It essentially asks for more protections against the release of sensitive classified information at the trial, according to gov-

ernment sources who would not disclose its precise details.

Rehnquist said the trial would be delayed until further order of the Supreme Court. His action Sunday was highly unusual and reflected the sense of urgency surrounding the legal battle.

But the administration agreed to drop its Supreme Court appeal if the trial judge accepts the proposed compromise, which would allow North's trial to proceed without delay.

North, a former White House national security aide and retired marine lieutenant colonel, is the first defendant to go on trial on charges arising from the 1985-86 secret sale of arms to Iran and the diversion of profits to the Nicaraguan

contra rebels.

He has pleaded not guilty to the 12 criminal charges that include shredding secret White House documents to cover up the scandal, lying to Congress and participating in a tax fraud conspiracy to arm the contras.

The two most serious charges against North — conspiracy and theft — were dismissed when U.S. intelligence agencies refused to release secret documents needed by the prosecution.

The proposed compromise would seek to assure the U.S. intelligence community that there would be no sudden unauthorized disclosure of secrets.

However, one source close to independent special prosecutor

Lawrence Walsh told Reuters it was doubtful that trial Judge Gerhard Gesell would approve the tighter protections on the handling of secrets at the trial.

The judge has repeatedly ruled that North's constitutional right to a fair trial outweighs the fears of U.S. intelligence agencies that secrets might be exposed.

The Bush administration had asked the Supreme Court to halt the first Iran-contra trial while it appealed for the tighter controls on use of classified information.

Rehnquist's ruling was a victory for the administration in its bitter struggle with independent special prosecutor Walsh on whether the trial, which began Jan. 31, can go forward.

Opposition calls for Takeshita resignation

TOKYO (AP) — Japan's largest opposition party, fresh from a key weekend election victory, demanded Monday that Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita resign or dissolve parliament "so the people can express their will" regarding a political funding scandal that has rocked Japanese politics.

But Takeshita said he would not consider either action and pledged to devote himself to political reform.

Takako Doi, head of the Japan Socialist Party, told parliament her party's resounding victory in a parliamentary upper house by-election Sunday demonstrated public opposition to Takeshita's policies and to alleged corruption under his administration.

In Sunday's election in Fukuoka in southern Japan,

socialist Sadao Fuchigami defeated liberal Democrat Kei Oma by 751,036 to 564,301 votes. The election was widely seen as a test of the damage done by the scandal involving political donations and bargain-priced stocks provided to leading politicians and others by Recruit Company, a rapidly growing information services conglomerate.

Three cabinet members and more than a dozen other prominent politicians and businessmen have resigned because of the scandal, which has led to broader questions about political fundraising and links between business and politics.

"The election showed that people in Fukuoka won't put up with any more (of Takeshita's policies)," Doi said, as opposition lawmakers cheered. "Either the



Noboru Takeshita

entire cabinet must resign, or the prime minister must dissolve parliament so the people can express their will."

In his response to Doi's speech, Takeshita said he "humbly accepted" the election results and would undertake political reform to restore the people's trust in politics.

Gunmen kill Belfast lawyer

BELFAST (R) — Two gunmen Sunday burst into the Belfast home of a prominent Catholic lawyer and shot him dead in front of his young children.

Police said the killing of Patrick Finucane had all the hallmarks of a shooting by Protestant paramilitary extremists.

In an attack condemned by both the British and Irish governments, the gunmen also wounded Finucane's Protestant wife, Geraldine. She was shot in the ankle.

Finucane was recently involved in a controversial inquest that centred on allegations of a "shoot-to-kill" policy by Northern Ireland police against Irish nationalist guerrillas.

The inquest into the deaths of three suspected Irish nationalist guerrillas shot dead in 1983 was halted and then scrapped after Finucane went to the Northern Ireland high court demanding police be forced to testify.

He also succeeded in having charges dropped against a man suspected of involvement in the beating and killing last March of two British soldiers who apparently strayed into the path of an Irish Republican Army (IRA) guerrilla's funeral.

Police said the gunmen had hijacked a taxi from a Protestant area, drove to Finucane's house in north Belfast and shot him in the body and head. The taxi was later found abandoned.

Finucane, a civil rights activist for Northern Ireland's Catholic minority in the early 1970s, was the seventh person killed in the province's sectarian and political conflict this year.

Paraguayans adjusting to change

ASUNCION, Paraguay (AP) — The gunfire was stopped, the dictator is gone and the celebrating is over. Paraguayans now must get down to the business of adjusting to life without the only president most of them have ever known.

On the surface, the future looks brighter for this South American nation of nearly four million — holding promises of new leadership and perhaps a more representative government.

The likelihood that another General Alfredo Stroessner, now in exile in neighbouring Brazil, bothers few Paraguayans.

Nether does the certainty that political power will remain in the hands of the ruling Colorado Party, a pillar of Stroessner's support

throughout his nearly 35 years in power.

"It doesn't make any difference what kind of government we get, it has to be better than the one we had," said 20-year-old Celso Gonzalez, one of the thousands of citizens who went into the street to celebrate the fall of the 76-year-old dictator.

General Andres Rodriguez, whose tanks and troops ousted Stroessner in a violent coup Feb. 3, seems to be many things his predecessor was not.

Rodriguez quickly dissolved Congress and called for elections May 1 in which all parties — except the communists — can participate.

He named an 11-man interim cabinet that even opposition members grudgingly admit in-

cludes Paraguay's most successful and talented administrators and technocrats.

The new government will have to deal with urgent problems, including poverty, economic stagnation, 30 per cent annual inflation and a foreign debt of nearly \$2 billion.

The church, which had become a leading opposition body in this predominantly Roman Catholic nation, promised the new president its support.

Rodriguez, 65, has denied rumours he may be linked to drug traffickers who move cocaine through Paraguay, and he pledged to cooperate with the United States and international agencies seeking to end the drug trade.

Uneasiness surrounds ex-presidents cashing in on their fame

By W. Dale Nelson
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — There is ample precedent for Ronald Reagan to make millions of dollars off his memoirs, but the money-making activity of former presidents is still a sore subject with many Americans.

It was, in fact, a basis for Congress' decision more than 30 years ago to grant pensions and office allowances to former occupants of the White House.

The idea, according to a Senate committee report issued in 1986, was to "ensure that former presidents can live dignified retired lives free from the need to 'commercialise' and demean their status as elder statesmen."

Nevertheless, before and since the law was passed, past presidents have profited,

sometimes handsomely, from writing, speaking and tapping business connections.

Presidential scholars are divided on the propriety of Reagan receiving a reported advance of \$5 million for his memoirs and a book of speeches, and for signing a reported \$40,000-a-speech contract with a lecture agency.

"He should not make one dime for writing a book of what he did as president, or for speaking. That's what I think," said political scientist James David Barber of Duke University, a leading student of the U.S. presidency.

But Daniel P. Franklin, a political scientist and expert on the presidency at Colgate University, said "I frankly don't see anything wrong with President Reagan writing a book and getting some money. We tend to hold our politicians to, in some case, unrealistic stan-

dards."

"I think what it shows is that the ex-president is still seen as a symbol and there is an idea that in some way the symbolic nature of the presidency is compromised just by virtue of his accepting monetary gain," Franklin said.

Former President Ulysses S. Grant, who served from 1869 to 1877, received \$500,000 for his memoirs of the U.S. Civil War. His two-volume work is considered a classic war commentary.

"As a matter of fact, he was a much better autobiographer than he was a president," said Franklin.

When President Harry Truman left the White House in 1953, he wrote in his memoirs that he had turned down lucrative offers from industry because "I knew that they were not interested in hiring Harry Truman, the person, but what

they wanted to hire was the former president of the United States. I could never lend myself to any transaction, however respectable, that would commercialise on the prestige and the dignity of the office of the presidency."

However, Truman did sell the rights to his memoirs to a U.S. magazine for \$600,000. With Truman's experience in mind, Congress enacted legislation in 1958 giving former presidents, for the first time, pensions and an allowance for their office expenses. Reagan gets a federal pension of \$99,500 a year and an office allowance of up to \$300,000.

Richard Nixon, after his resignation from office in 1974 in the wake of the Watergate scandals, received an advance of more than \$2 million for his memoirs plus \$600,000 and a share of the profits for a series of televised interviews with

British talk show host David Frost.

Nixon, like Dwight Eisenhower before him, accepts no speaking fees.

"His position is that he at least as a former president feels most comfortable speaking out only on substance and only when he thinks his doing so will help the country," said John H. Taylor, the former president's administrative assistant. "There is no implied criticism of how others do it; I am just telling you how President Nixon does it."

To that, Duke political scientist Barber quipped: "Here you have the most unethical president of the 20th century who is being more ethical than the others."

Nixon's successor, Gerald Ford, and his wife received about \$1 million for their memoirs, and Ford was paid \$1

million by the national NBC television network to appear in documentaries and be available for television interviews over a five-year period.

Ford also had accepted offers to serve on the boards of a number of corporations or work as a consultant to others.

Former President Jimmy Carter received an undisclosed advance for his memoirs, "Keeping Faith," after a number of New York publishers were invited to meet with him.

Carter is also in demand as a speaker on college campuses. Memphis State University said it persuaded Carter to speak after offering him \$10,000 and free air fare to and from its southern U.S. campus.

LBJ School of Public Affairs, according to library archivist Claudia Anderson.

As for Reagan, the former film star was asked during his flight home to California Jan. 20 whether, with the White House behind him, he might make any more movies. He replied, "No, there is kind of a lingering feeling that would look a little bit like trying to cash in on this job that I've had."

During Senate hearings in recent years on legislation to limit ex-presidents' office allowances, concern was expressed that staff paid by the taxpayers could be used to help them write for profit.

Aides for Nixon, Ford, Carter and Reagan each said the former presidents are diligent about doing their own work or paying for it from their own funds.

COLUMN

Hundreds mass to see American bird

LONDON (AP) — The appearance of a rare bird caused such excitement that police had to be called to control the crowd of thousands that came to see a small bird — the first golden-winged warbler recorded in Europe. At one stage Sunday, police with bullhorns had to control the crowd as the birdwatchers, equipped with binoculars, telescopes and cameras, strained for a glimpse of the warbler at Maidstone, 65 kilometres south-east of London. Some of the visitors were from Belgium and the Netherlands. Ian Mills, a British visitor, said "I've been all over the country to look at rare birds and a crowd of a few hundred is not unusual but I've never seen anything like this." "There were well over 2,000 people present when I was there and at times roads were choked as traffic could hardly move," said. "This must have been the largest gathering of bird-watchers to look at one bird there has ever been," said Richard Millington, spokesman for the Birdline Telephone Information Service, whose report about the warbler drew the crowds.

Selleck in jail for movie

CINCINNATI, Ohio (AP) — Actor Tom Selleck cheered a small group of loyal fans who braved freezing temperatures to wait for a glimpse of the star outside a jail where he is working on a film. "Hello, hello, nice to see you all," Selleck said as he leaned out the front door of Cincinnati's workhouse during a break Saturday in filming "Hard Rain." Selleck plays a man sentenced to prison after being framed by corrupt police. He was wearing blue prison jeans and shirt and had a glob of purple makeup over his right eye. "I'm supposed to look like I've had a fight," he explained, before going back inside the 120-year-old prison. All filming in Cincinnati is being done inside the workhouse, where a cellblock has been renovated for the movie, said Ell Pasternack, a spokeswoman at Walt Disney Productions, who is making the film.

Man lives with 100 snakes

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — Malaysian "snake king" Dastagir Husini believed to have set a record for living with poisonous snakes after spending two weeks with in a pen with 100 cobras, he and National Museum officials said Tuesday. "I am fine and ready to prolong my stay with the snakes for another two or three days," Husini said next to the pen in the museum where he has been living with the snakes since Jan. 24. The national news agency Bernama reported Tuesday that he had set a world record last Thursday. Husini, 63, was given a clean bill of health by Dr. A. Ganga Daran who examined him on after he stepped out of a glass cubicle Tuesday morning. The medical examination was conducted so Husini could continue with the feat. A snake exhibition is being held in conjunction with the demonstration and visitors to the snake show have so far paid more than 75,000 ringgits (\$27,502).

Shaw's birthplace up for sale

DUBLIN (R) — The Dublin birthplace of playwright George Bernard Shaw has been advertised for sale on the international market. The occupants of the eight-room house are asking 165,000 points (\$250,000), twice the price of other houses in the street. Among interested potential purchasers are the Dublin-based Shaw Birthplace Museum Trust which wants to convert the terraced house into a Shaw museum.

Detroit marks Paczki Day

DETROIT (R) — For thousands of Detroiters, Shrove Tuesday is better known as "Paczki Day." The leaden, custard or fruit-filled Polish doughnut known as Paczki (pronounced punch-key) was the treat of choice here last Tuesday. The Paczki tradition dates to Roman Catholic celebrations in Poland. The pastries are rich with eggs, sugar and other delicacies that traditionally are forsaken during Lent. Long lines formed a dawn outside bakeries in tiny Hamtramck, Michigan, a Polish enclave in Detroit where bakers had toiled for days preparing the treats.

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